Daily Report

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Bosnia's Silajdzic Reiterates Territorial Demand

AU1712124793 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1100 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Report by Michael Kerbler]

[Text] The goals of the Vienna talks on Bosnia are quite clear: First, a compromise formula is to be looked for, with which the Bosnian Muslims can get back between 2 and 4 percent of the area that is currently occupied by Serbian troops. Second, a solution for the still open demand by the Muslims for a safe corridor to the Adriatic Sea is to be found.

Asked about his expectations about the Vienna talks, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said:

[Begin Silajdzic recording, in English with superimposed German translation] Well, we have said this so many times: We want at least 33.3 percent of our country's territory for a new central republic, which is to be formed, and we want access to the sea and access to the Sava River. [end recording]

Silajdzic cannot imagine a division of Sarajevo.

[Begin Silajdzic recording] No, we have already come to an arrangement that the city will be administered by the United Nations for a certain period. [end recording]

All participants in the Vienna talks—Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic, mediators Stoltenberg and Owen, as well as European Union Council President Claes and European Union Foreign Affairs Commissioner Van den Broek—are aware of the fact that Vienna is an important step on the path toward the Bosnian peace conference in Brussels, because there, on 22 December, all warring parties and mediators are to meet upon initiative by the European Union. This is to set the course toward peace before Christmas in Brussels.

Muslims, Croats, and Serbs have promised to come to the talks in the Belgian capital. The European Union is willing to suspend its economic sanctions against the Serbian side, if the Serbian side, for its part, gives up small parts of the conquered territory. Otherwise, European Union Council President Willy Claes, who visited Chancellor Vranitzky this morning, said that the European Union must revise its attitude.

[Begin Claes recording, in English with superimposed German translation] Well, one thing is clear, I think, we demand new concessions from the Serbs. The basis is the agreement that we concluded on the cruiser Invincible, but this is not enough. The Serbs must make additional concessions, and if they are not willing to do that, we must consider tightening the sanctions against Mr. Milosevic. [end recording]

In Brussels, the Bosnian Croats do not want to be pilloried and have taken some preventive action. They have concluded a cease-fire with the Muslims for Christmas, agreed on a humanitarian supply corridor between Mostar and Sarajevo, and started to release Muslim prisoners-of-war. Whether the Serbs, who are now controlling 70 percent of the Bosnian territory, will be as flexible is difficult to judge.

No Serbian negotiator has come to the Vienna talks. This would probably be rather pointless, anyway, because one day before the election weekend in what remains of Yugoslavia, President Milosevic is not willing to make any concessions that might further hurt his already damaged image among the people.

The hopes of the European Union foreign ministers and of mediators Owen and Stoltenberg are, therefore, concentrated on the days after the elections in Belgrade, in particular on the Brussels summit on Bosnia.

Alois Mock's statement that one should not expect too much of the Vienna meeting will probably prove to be true. If one looks back on the history on the peace negotiations for Bosnia, one may also predict that this statement by the Austrian foreign minister will also apply to the Brussels conference—to the distress of hundreds of thousands of people in Bosnia, who are facing a terrible winter of war.

Geneva Meeting Preparation for Brussels Talks

LD1712175593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1608 GMT 17 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Geneva, Dec 17 (TANJUG)—The spokesman of the co-chairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia, John Mills, said on Friday that the peace talks on the war-ravaged ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina would open in Geneva on December 21, and continue the following day in Brussels under the auspices of the ministerial council of the European Union (E.U.).

Mills told a press conference in Geneva that the Geneva meeting is practically a preparation for the talks which begin on December 22 in Brussels.

Bosnia-Herzegovina has for the past 20 months been shaken by a civil war between the local Moslems, Serbs and Croats. The internationally sponsored negotiations were broken off several times due to increasing Moslem territorial demands.

Mills said that the Geneva meeting will be attended by the leaders of the three warring sides in Bosnia: Radovan Karadzic (Serbs), Mate Boban (Croats) and Alija Izetbegovic (Moslems), and the presidents of the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro, Slobodan Milosevic and Momir Bulatovic, and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

According to the spokesman, the negotiators have not confirmed their arrival in Geneva in writing, but have done so over the phone.

The Geneva talks will be conducted by the co-chairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord David Owen and Thorwald Stoltenberg and, apart from the participants from the former Yugoslavia, they will also be attended by the special peace envoys from Russia and the United States, Vitaliy Churkin and Charles Redmon.

According to Mills, the talks will focus on an integral solution for Bosnia but also on finding a modus vivendi for the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which was proclaimed by the local Serbs within the administrative borders of Croatia in areas where they are in the majority.

Mills recalled the efforts of the E.U. to secure one-third of the entire territory of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina for the Moslems.

He said that the co-chairmen's bilateral contacts with the warring sides have so far failed to result in any success and added that controversial questions, such as the Moslem access to the sea, territorial disputes in eastern Bosnia and the status of Sarajevo, will still remain.

The spokesman did not say anything about the speculations that the warring sides would be presented with a compromise formula, i.e. the signing of the peace agreement and the demilitarization of Sarajevo, on condition that territorial divisions are left for some later negotiations.

Diplomatic circles in Geneva view such a settlement of the crisis as a realistic and only possible option because the E.U. is in a hurry to end the year with some kind of result.

Mediators Leave for Belgrade

AU1712180193 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1700 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Report by Elisa Wasch]

[Text] All participants in the negotiations emphasize that the talks were informal and of a purely informative nature. It was said that these were preparations for the negotiations next Wednesday in Brussels. The Muslim side, represented by Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, outlined its position in detail for this purpose. Its position remains unchanged.

The Muslims, who currently control some 15 percent of Bosnia, want one-third of the territory, access to the Adriatic and the Sava. However, the Serbs do not want to return a single square inch of the territory they have conquered. They control a total of 70 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Brussels next week, the European Union foreign ministers will once more discuss the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina with high-ranking representatives of all three conflicting parties. Astonishingly, despite the incompatibility of Serbian and Muslim positions, European Union representatives are hoping for an agreement. Asked whether such a hope was really realistic, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, currently also president of the European Union Council, said:

[Begin Claes recording] What is realistic, and what is not? It is simply our duty to continue the negotiations and to try and find a solution for this tragedy. [end recording]

The European Union is demanding concessions from the Serbian and Croatian side to the Muslims. Yet, it is too early to discuss further sanctions against Serbia, if the Bosnian Serbs insist on their positions, Claes said.

This afternoon, the two UN and European Union mediators, David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, respectively, left for Belgrade to hold negotiations. They are planning to return to Vienna tonight and hold further talks with Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic. Silajdzic will probably stay in Vienna until tomorrow.

Boundaries Discussed

LD1712183093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1749 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Dec (TANJUG)—A meeting was held in Belgrade today with the participation of Slobodan Milosevic, the president of the Republic of Serbia, Radovan Karadzic, the president of the Serb Republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina], Momcilo Krajisnik, the president of the People's Assembly of the Serb Republic, Nikola Koljevic, the vice president of the Serb Republic, and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, representing the Serb side; Hrvoje Sarinic and Mile Akmacic representing the Croat side; and the cochairmen of the Geneva conference, David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg and their aides.

According to the office of the president of the Republic of Serbia, the talks centered on issues regarding the defining of territorial boundaries between the three republics in former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Central European Left-Wing Parties Meet

LD1912215393 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] A meeting of left-wing parties from the states of the so called Visegrad group has ended in Bratislava with the adoption of a joint communique.

[Correspondent Gorecki] Party delegations from Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic came to Bratislava at the invitation of the head of the Slovak post-communists, Peter Weiss, of the Party of the Democratic Left, and Jaroslav Volf, of the Slovak Social-Democratic Party. The Polish left was represented by Aleksander Kwasniewski and Tadeusz Iwinski, of Social Democracy of the Polish Republic [SdRP], and Piotr Marciniak and Piotr Pankanin, of the Union of Labor [UP].

The communique presented at today's news conference limits itself to listing three main subject areas discussed in Bratislava. They talked about socialist and social-democratic parties' attitudes toward the Socialist International, about the attitude of the Visegrad group states to the European security structures, and about the state of and prospects for societies in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia.

It was agreed that there is a need to develop further interparty cooperation, and more meetings were announced. An international conference is to take place next May in Budapest under the slogan "The Social-democratic Alternative for Central Europe."

The leaders of central European left-wing parties resolutely rejected speculations that a postcommunist internationalism is being established in Bratislava. Aleksander Kwasniewski said: There is no threat of this because there is no threat of communism, no threat of communist parties' recidivism. There would be no sense whatsoever in returning to institutions which lost. Piotr Marciniak of the Union of Labor was of the opinion that these are exaggerated fears. We are aware that there are various parties here and this means we are less nervous, he said. Milos Zeman, leader of the Czech social democrats, believes that the days of communist-type internationals are over. There is only an international association of similar-minded people.

All the participants in the Bratislava meeting spoke in favor of developing very close cooperation between the Visegrad group states. The political pendulum is swinging left, whether anyone likes it or not, said Jaroslav Volf, leader of the Slovak social democrats. Our parties should as quickly as possible begin work on a plan for interstate political and economic cooperation.

All participants in the conference, without exception, expressed the belief that soon the number of central European left-wing parties in power will would increase significantly.

This was Piotr Gorecki speaking from Bratislava.

Berisha Hails Recognition of Macedonia

AU1712210493 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Asked to comment on the latest developments in the Balkan region, President of the Republic Sali Berisha told ATA reporter Viktor Cenosinaj that the recognition and establishment of diplomatic relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Denmark is a very important step that should be greeted concerning the stability of this republic, whose independence and stability are important for the entire Balkan region.

Meksi Briefs European Delegation on Reform

AU1812194493 Tirana ATA in English 1109 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 18 (ATA)—Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi received on December 17 a delegation of the European Christian Democratic Union, led by its president, Mr. Wilfred Martens.

"I am pleased with my visit to Albania which is a country that has suffered so much from the communist regime," Mr. Martens said. "Our union as well as the European Community is following with special interest the democratic processes and the development of the economic reforms in Albania."

Mr. Meksi said that the democratic government is resolute on the road of reforms and considers them as the only way to reactivate the economy and to establish the rule of law. "We are in the second year of governing and among the most significant results attained so far are the lowering of inflation, stability in the economy, resumption of production, privatization of agriculture and growth of agricultural production, continuous improvement of legislation. Mr. Meksi said further on, "The next year will be decisive for the reform and the restitution of ownerships according to the law."

The delegation of the European Christian Democratic Union expressed to Mr. Meksi their consideration for the work made in Albania with regard to the democratization and the constructive economic reforms. The delegation members assured Mr. Meksi of their commitment in support of Albania during the process of transition from a centralized economy into the market economy.

Democratic Progress Praised

AU1812194593 Tirana ATA in English 1116 GMT 18 Dec 93

["Present Democratic Developments of Albania Will Make Possible Its Membership in the European Union"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 18 (ATA)—"Albania's progress in democracy will enable it to become a member of the European Union," Mr. Wilfrid Martens, president of the European Christian Democratic Union, declared at a press conference held in conjunction with the Albanian Democratic Party yesterday. He went on to say that political membership for Albania would imply economic membership as well. Mr. Martens and a delegation from the Christian Democratic Union were ending a three-day visit to Albania.

After meetings with representatives of political organizations of Albania and Kosova, Mr. Martens said that his delegation had been given ample information about the political and religious conditions in Albania, as well as on the human rights of the minorities in the country. "Albania has done much within a short period of time to bring about the democratization of the country. But the most important is what is Albania going to do in the future," Mr. Martens said, adding that he has been impressed by the mutual respect existing among different religious beliefs in Albania. Mr. Martens said that his delegation will prepare a report for the union's council in which it will define the possible Albanian partners of this organization.

Regarding the talks the delegation had with the Socialist Party, Mr. Martens said that although he would not deny the value of the talks, the Socialist Party could not be part of the European Christian Democratic Union, because it does not accept the organization's program. Mr. Martens said that he was convinced that the Albanian Law on Human Rights guarantees all freedoms and rights to minorities in Albania. Concerning unemployment, Mr. Martens said that this is a significant problem for all of the countries of Western Europe as well. It is clear that the transition from a centralized economy into a market economy entails serious social consequences. It is the task of European leaders to consolidate the economy of Europe, he said.

The secretary general of the Democratic Party, Tritan Shehu, said during his meeting with the delegation that the European Christian Democratic Union has supported the Democratic Party since the very beginning in its fight to uproot communism and establish democracy in Albania.

Crime Cooperation Agreement Signed With Croatia

AU1712154493 Tirana ATA in English 1104 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 17 (ATA)—An agreement of cooperation between the Albanian Ministry of Public Order and the Croatian Interior Ministry was signed in Zagreb on December 14. The objective of the agreement is fight against terrorism, organized crime, and drug-trafficking. The agreement was signed during a visit to Croatia of the Albanian minister of public order, Agron Musaraj.

Croatian Business Delegation Visits Shkodra

AU2012102893 Tirana ATA in English 0912 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 20 (ATA)—A Croatian delegation of the region of Slavonski Brod paid a three day visit to the city of Shkodra. It met and had talks with representatives of the local government, presidents of private firms and economic enterprises. The delegation was led by the deputy mayor of the region, Marian Shtefanoc.

At the end of the visit, Mr. Shtefanoc said that "Croatia is interested in the development of economic relations with Albania, in the export and import of commodities. Our relations will be based not only on the logic of business and profit but also on that of friendship." Mr. Shtefanoc admitted that they talked about the aid that Croatian institutions will give in the field of fruits growing, agriculture, construction, infrastructure, energy and mechanical industry.

After this delegation, a Croatian group of specialists is expected to come to realise the agreements between the two regions.

The delegation of Slavonski Brod will also pay a visit to Tirana.

Berisha Briefs Turkish General

AU1812194793 Tirana ATA in English 0913 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 17 (ATA)—On December 17, at noon, the president of the republic, Sali Berisha, met with General Atila Aishel, head of the Turkish military delegation, which is visiting Albania in the context of military relations with Turkey. The president thanked the guests for their contribution to the further strengthening of Albanian-Turkish relations in military and defence fields. "After Zhirinovsky's success in Russia, the strengthening of NATO's southern structure and Albania's membership in NATO would greatly serve peace and stability in the Balkans," the president said.

Further on he said that Albania intends military preparation to be able not only to cope with potential aggressions, but also to cooperate in the context of NATO and the CSCE with other armies.

ATA Denies TANJUG Claims on Party's Support

AU1812194393 Tirana ATA in English 0926 GMT 18 Dec 93

["New Metastases of Belgrade"—ATA commentary]

[Text] Tirana, December 17 (ATA)—Slobodan Milosevic has started the election campaign, the second one this year, since several weeks ago. December 19 elections in Belgrade, more than an electoral battle, are a fight for existence waged by Slobodan. Under this hopeless situation he does not forget to make active his friends, well-wishers as well as mercenaries to Serbia from neighbouring countries.

It is understandable that in this farce he also needs some "honest" Albanians, therefore discredit and pro-Serb elements, such as Ceka, Cupi, and lately Namik Hoti, were urgently called out to Belgrade. TANJUG misinformed the Serbian public saying that the Ecological Party of Namik Hoti is represented in all the Albanian prefectures.

We remind TANJUG of what it very well knows that, the Ecological Party of Namik Hoti has only one member, the chairman of the party. These poor visitors seek somewhat to change the colour of the Serbian dun sky, discrediting themselves even more.

The Albanian visitors to Belgrade have long since been branded with the infamy borne by anyone who violates national interests.

Hoti and Ceka are two party leaders without electorate. These parties can win electorate only in Serbia, but never among the Albanians.

Kozloduy Reactor Commissioning Permitted

AU1812144993 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 2100 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] The Committee for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy has granted permission for the No. 1 Generating Unit at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant to be put into regular operation, the Kozloduy Nuclear Plant press center announced today.

The unit, which was shut down in 1991 by a decree of the Council of Ministers, is being started up following the completion of a check by an international consortium and a state commission, carried out between 14 and 17 December 1993. The commission considers that the present condition of the No. 1 Unit is even better than the high level of safety achieved and confirmed in the No. 2 Unit.

Canadian Firm To Enhance Safety

AU1612192193 Sofia BTA in English 1830 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Kozloduy, December 16 (BTA)—Canada's Ontario Hydro International won a tender for a project to enhance the safety of the Kozloduy Nuclear Plant's four older units. It competed with Italian, German, French, Swiss and British bidders. The project is a result of an agreement between the G-7 and Bulgaria's National Electricity Company and Committee for Peaceful Atomic Energy Uses. It includes 14 contracts worth an aggregate 24 million ECU.

Bids are invited for supplying over 9 million ECU worth of equipment for visual inspection of the reactors.

Zhelev Congratulates Macedonia on Recognition

AU1712193193 Sofia BTA in English 1752 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 17 (BTA)—President Zhelyu Zhelev has cabled congratulations to President of the Republic of Macedonia Kiro Gligorov on the December 16, 1993 establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Macedonia and six member states of the European Union.

Bulgaria, which was the first state to recognize the independence of the Republic of Macedonia and the other former Yugoslav republics, regards the expanding international recognition of Macedonia as a natural and normal process and an additional prerequisite for strengthening Balkan stability and good- neighbourliness, the cable emphasizes.

Zhelev Supports 'Regular' NATO Membership

AU1912195493 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] On 19 December, in a special Khorizont Radio program, President Zhelyu Zhelev responded to questions from listeners, which were predominantly related to national security issues.

It is not the reforms that could destabilize Bulgaria but rather their delay, President Zhelev said. He reproved the National Assembly for failing so far to adopt the Bill on the National Security Consultative Council, which must clarify relations among the state institutions on this important issue.

The president also stressed that another bill must be rapidly adopted—namely a bill on synchronizing relations among the country's special services. He rejected the claim that Bulgaria's intelligence is presently a backyard without a fence and stressed the efficient activity of the National Intelligence Service.

Dr. Zhelev expressed surprise at the statement of Ahmed Dogan, leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS], regarding a contradiction between national security and human rights and pointed out that this is an illogical and politically harmful claim.

Asked whether Bulgaria should become a regular NATO member or remain politically neutral, President Zhelev said:

[Begin Zhelev recording] I think that Bulgaria must clearly state its willingness to become a regular and normal NATO member. This is my categorical position. I believe that our parliament will adopt the same position and the relevant decision. It should adopt this decision before the meeting of the NATO member countries' foreign ministers at the beginning of January. This decision should be adopted regardless of the fact whether NATO will indeed admit additional regular members or chooses to restrict itself for the time being to cooperation with other states within the framework of the U.S. initiative Partnership for Peace.

In any event, Bulgaria should firmly express its position, as Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary did.

As far as the idea is concerned—that Bulgaria should be a neutral state—it is naive to speak about neutrality under the existing conditions. The elementary analysis of the events and the balance of forces in our region, Europe, and the world show that Bulgaria must become a NATO member in order to have the categorical military-political and military guarantees of its national security. [end recording]

Zhelev Views Zhirinovskiy Statement

AU1912201393 Sofia BTA in English 1824 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Sofia, December 19 (BTA)—Bulgaria's internal stability, which depends on economic development, is of much greater importance to national security than any external guarantees that might be offered to this country, President Zhelyu Zhelev said in a one-hour interview on the Khorizont Programme of national radio. [passage omitted]

The concept of national security is viewed in a very narrow perspective, Dr. Zhelev said. Some reduce it to the law-enforcement authorities, others to national defence and the military's combat efficiency, still others to external political guarantees, or to this country's possible membership in NATO. This is a wrong and narrow view, the concept of national security incorporates all these factors but there is more to it than that, according to Dr. Zhelev. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he took seriously Zhirinovskiy's statement that Bulgaria was a former Russian colony, President Zhelev said: "I don't take these words seriously but they are not to be ignored. We should not forget that Hitler was not taken seriously either. Zhirinovskiy's statements and his party's success in the elections show that Russia will meet far more difficulties on the road to democracy than the other East European countries, Bulgaria included. Bulgaria and Russia have common Slav roots and alphabet, Russia liberated us from five hundred years' Ottoman domination, but this is only one side of the story. There are also the political realities. We cannot form a bond of dependence on Russia in the current state of affairs, when it is not clear how exactly processes in Russia will develop and how long, difficult and complicated its transition to democracy will be. For me, this would be madness. I believe the admission to NATO of the East European countries, Bulgaria included, would help Russia's democratic forces, President Yeltsin and reformers with a pro-European orientation."

Zlatimir Orsov MP of the Bulgarian Socialist Party called in to ask President Zhelev whether Bulgaria should join NATO only militarily, or both militarily and politically, and how much this would cost. "NATO is a military-political system and Bulgaria cannot join it militarily while remaining politically uninvolved," Dr. Zhelev said. He added: "The Bulgarian public should not be told that admission to NATO would cost too much, I think such fears are unfounded." According to the president, if NATO decides to admit the East European democracies, it will not raise the issue of their armies' automatic rearmament for the simple reason that none of the new democracies has so much money. [passage omitted]

The interviewer asked President Zhelev about his views on a police search in which two Iranians were shot dead some ten days ago. The police were searching for drug traffickers who killed one police officer and critically wounded two in a police check on December 6. This operation sparked off different reactions in the press. "I would not like to comment before the official results of the investigation become known. I have the feeling, however, that the operation was a little amateurish which may have a certain effect on the prestige of the police," Dr. Zhelev said. Asked whether this would create a problem in Bulgaria's relations with the Arab countries, he said he disapproved of the xenophobic attitudes voiced in the press and put them down to the desire of certain newspapers to please their readers rather than to attempts by Mafia groups to brainwash the public.

Dr. Zhelev was asked to comment on an excerpt from a report by Ahmed Dogan, leader of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms, made at its Second National Conference in November, which said that if Dogan was to choose between national security and human rights, he would choose the latter. "I was quite surprised at these words because I consider Mr. Dogan an able and intelligent politician to whom we owe the avoidance of interethnic confrontation," Dr. Zhelev said. He added there was no logic in opposing these two things and such an opposition was politically dangerous. The president said he hoped these words had been intended to calm down the electorate or had been prompted by expediency.

Police Action Explained To Iranian Diplomat

AU1812212593 Sofia BTA in English 1747 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Sofia, December 18 (BTA)—Major General Kosta Bogatsevski, chief secretary at the Interior Ministry, today met with Madjid Chaharbagi [name as received], first secretary at the Iranian Embassy in Sofia, the ministry's press office said.

The sides discussed matters of common interest. General Bogatsevski voiced the ministry's official view on actions following the December 6 incident in a Sofia residential district, in which one police officer was killed and two were severely wounded. According to the Interior Ministry, all police actions taken so far in connection with the incident have been aimed at the detection and arrest of the perpetrators rather than against nationals of any country. General Bogatsevski stressed that with a view to maintaining public order, the ministry had taken all necessary measures to prevent unlawful actions against any citizen. The sides expressed their willingness to cooperate in the search for the criminals so that they could be brought to justice. The meeting was held at General Bogatsevski's invitation, according to the communique. [passage omitted]

One-Year Agreement Drafted With IMF

AU1712144693 Sofia BTA in English 1227 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 17 (BTA)—Bulgaria and the IMF have drafted a one-year agreement. Its fate will

depend on the work of parliament, but it can possibly be signed in February 1994. This was announced at a joint news conference given by Bulgaria's Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov and IMF Bulgaria mission head Russell Kincaid, who is in Bulgaria on a working visit. This agreement conditions the Bulgaria/London Club agreement in principle, the possibility of attaining an agreement with the Paris Club, and Bulgaria's relations with the G-24 and the European Union (EU), the finance minister said.

The cabinet's letter of intent can be deposited to the IMF Board of Directors after Bulgaria's parliament adopts the bad credit bill and the country's 1994 budget within the framework negotiated three months ago at the annual IMF session in Washington, D.C. There are additional conditions like the passing of a bankruptcy law, amendments to the Privatization Act to bolster the process and an income policy control by the executive. The finance minister specified the bad credits law would be voted by the end of the year and the budget by the end of January 1994. As regards the bankruptcy law, the likely deadline is the end of March next year. By that time the National Bank of Bulgaria (BNB) intends to control the granting of credits to insolvent state-run enterprises. Mr. Aleksandrov is optimistic. He thinks this will be the last year of a slump in the Bulgarian economy and a U-turn in the country's economy is expected in 1994.

I am a realist and I think the agreement with Bulgaria will be seconded by the fund's leaders as we drafted it within already negotiated frameworks, Russell Kincaid said. This stand-by credit will provide a financial backup to Bulgaria's agreement with the London Club of private creditor banks. The IMF is prepared to grant Bulgaria additional funds to help it pay its foreign debt, but this will be decided during the second half of 1994 when the final agreement between Bulgaria and the private creditor banks will be known. The definite credit amount is likely to be announced at that time.

BNB Governor Todor Vulchev attending the news conference specified Bulgaria had been granted nearly U.S.$2 billion in foreign credits. Given the BNB currency and gold reserves total $1.2 billion dollars while those of commercial banks amount to 700-odd million dollars, the country had not been indebted additionally over the last four years, Mr. Vulchev said. The country's foreign debt accumulated beforehand amounts to $12 billion with the interests accrued, but the agreement in principle with the private creditor banks would facilitate its buying.

Mr. Vulchev refuted recent press reports that the Bulgarian lev would be strongly devalued once Bulgaria starts repaying its foreign debt. He clarified that a financial market collapse is possible only if Bulgaria starts paying its debt without a financial backup from the international financial institutions which, in his view, is unfeasible.

Berov Answers Charges of Privatization Delay

AU1712153093 Sofia BTA in English 1445 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 17 (BTA)—"The political crisis into which Bulgaria has been plunged for four years now is unlikely to be overcome for several more years," Prime Minister Berov told an interviewer of the Plus-Minus TV programme last night.

The cabinet took office intending to become a government of privatization. However, it is not to blame for the lack of mass privatization in this country, Prof. Berov said. Bulgarian investors take very limited interest in industrial enterprises. As trade and tax evasion yield high and quick profits, investment in privatization programmes is avoided. A scheme and a draft for an amended version of the Privatization Act are ready but parliament delays its approval. However, this problem is likely to be solved by January 8-9 1994, the prime minister said.

Having conferred with Prime Minister Berov earlier in the day, World Bank resident representative John Wilton described the government mass-privatization project as sensible, balanced and quite feasible.

Since it took office at the end of last year, the cabinet has achieved some positive economic results. The 1993 inflation rate is expected to be down to 64 percent from nearly 80 percent last year. The GDP decline was reduced to 4 percent from about 22 percent in early 1993, Prof. Berov said.

He dismissed the predictions of the Austrian Economic Planning and Development Agency of a 64 percent inflation rate in 1994. The restrictive financial policy which the cabinet will pursue in 1994 will bring inflation down to the range of 30-45 percent. For the first time GDP is expected to grow, even by a negligible 1 percent, Prof. Berov said. The cabinet is expecting increased flow of foreign investment and some financial support from international financial institutions, Prof. Berov told the interviewer.

Public Firms To Be Sold

AU1712193093 Sofia BTA in English 1744 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 17 (BTA)—The Privatization Agency is planning to denationalize 320 enterprises comprising 10 percent of the public sector. The programme has not been approved by the government so far. According to Privatization Agency Executive Director Reneta Indzhova, the programme has been approved only in principle by the cabinet since the ministers consider insufficient the $35 million in projected proceeds from the privatization in 1994.

The 1993 budget collected some 180 million leva from the privatization. The privatized enterprises owe a total of 300 million leva debts which the new owners took

over, Privatization Agency Supervisory Board Chief Khristo Pamukchiev said. The fixed assets of the privatized enterprises total 13 billion leva and their staff, 42,000.

According to the figures of the National Statistical Institute (NSI), 58 units were denationalized in January-October 1993, including 26 shops, 9 service stations, 6 enterprises, 4 warehouses, and 13 smaller units. Twenty-nine of them were municipal property and an equal number, state property. A total of 115 municipal and 219 state-owned units were put up for privatization in 1993, as most of them will figure in the 1994 privatization list as well. No enterprise turned private in 1992, although decisions had been taken for the denationalization of 40.

Given the bankruptcy of the national economy, the time-consuming arrangements for the privatization procedures and the need to attract foreign investors, the agency will not insist on over-priced privatization, Ms. Indzhova told journalists. "We have been too ambitious for a second year now, and what we have as a result is dragging privatization," she went on to say. The Privatization Agency is planning to denationalize 1,360 state-owned companies, 40 percent of the total number, by 1997. Executive Director Indzhova intends to speed up the process through application of both market and mass privatization. However, this will not be accomplished unless the cabinet approves the Privatization Agency programme.

Berov: Miners' Strike 'Has Political Nuances'

AU1912145493 Sofia BTA in English 2010 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 18 (BTA)—Figures on the miners' strike this week are obviously inflated and the strike has political nuances, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov said in an interview in the Panorama weekly roundup on National Television tonight.

The miners' branch of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation called a strike on December 13, two days after miners of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (KNSB), the other influential amalgamation, ended their strike. The two trade unions failed to reach an agreement to strike together, though their demands were more or less the same. Miners went on strike demanding wages unpaid for two months and a plan for closures of unprofitable mines. Each of the two trade union leaders denied the accuracy of figures cited by the other.

Podkrepa puts the number of miners on strike this week at 30,000. Besides, doctors and teachers of the trade union are ready to join the miners any moment, Podkrepa claims. According to the KNSB, about 2,000 have been on strike this week. In tonight's interview Mr. Berov said "several thousand, people had been on strike" according to companies of the mining industry. He recalled that the miners' demands had been granted and the closure of uranium mines, which can by no means be made profitable, was inevitable. Mr. Berov said it was hardly likely that doctors and teachers would go on the strike because their protests were concentrated at "individual centres."

Commenting on a statement of National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov that the cabinet would fall in the new year, Mr. Berov said this was probably Mr. Yordanov's personal opinion. Parliament expresses its desire to change or back the cabinet in a vote of confidence, and the cabinet has been backed by it so far, the prime minister said.

Answering a question, Mr. Berov said the cabinet and the Supreme Court had been at war for ten months now. The Supreme Court has cancelled many administrative acts issued by the cabinet. A graphic example, according to Mr. Berov, is the dismissal by the cabinet of five members of the Supervisory Board of the Privatization Agency, who were reinstated three times by the supreme court.

Latest Figures Show Production Decline Slowing

AU1712175393 Sofia BTA in English 1522 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 17 (BTA)—The production decline is slowing down steadily, production reached a year's high in November, said the National Statistical Institute, summing up the business climate last month according to today's press reports. The relatively production invigoration in November, however, was not enough to reverse the trend in the business climate, statisticians concluded.

While in 1992 production dropped 20.2 percent from 1991, the decline was only 10.7 percent in 1993 from 1992. The production sector [words indistinct] 29 billion leva in November, up 14 percent from October. Nearly 40 percent of the state and cooperative enterprises did not show a decline in output sales.

The gross domestic product amounted to 195 billion leva in 1991, according to NSI figures. The institute's experts expect the GDP to stand at 260 billion leva at the end of this year and at 360 billion leva in 1994. These predictions diverge from the government's projections, which estimates the 1994 GDP at 500 billion leva. Contrary to the cabinet's expectations, production is unlikely to grow even 1 percent, statisticians believe. Back last year they made a prediction according to which it would be more realistic to expect a zero growth in 1994 if economic policy is regulated.

November inflation was 4.6 percent, and the aggregate January- November figure 57.7 percent. Consequently, the annual inflation rate will be within 60-65 percent, as expected by the government and projected by the institute. By the end of November consumer prices, which are used as a measure of inflation, had risen 80 percent for services, 54.4 percent for foods, and 50 percent for nonfoods since the beginning of the year. In November

1992, inflation stood at 6.7 percent, while consumer prices had grown 71.6 percent since January. NSI experts expect inflation will be some 40 percent next year, while the government projects 30 percent. NSI President Zakhari Karamfilov sees the government's projection as symptomatic of a desire to stay within the 6.5 percent limit set by the International Monetary Fund on next year's budget deficit.

Parliament Updates 1993 Budget

AU1712152993 Sofia BTA in English 1415 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 17 (BTA)—Parliament today passed at first and at second reading a cabinet-sponsored 1993 Budget Update Act, envisaging an increase in the budget deficit by 5.47 billion leva.

The increase in the budget deficit was necessitated by a shortfall of the social security budget due to arrears of contributions. Social security tax to the amount of 6.7 billion leva has not been paid in the first three quarters, according to Nikola Babanov, chief of the State Expenditures Chief Department of the Finance Ministry. Pensions and social benefits due to be paid by the year's end amount to 7.3 billion, which exceeds budgeted funds by 5.47 billion leva. The updated budget deficit will amount to 33.054 billion leva, up from the original 27.584 billion leva.

The Finance Ministry proposes that the deficit be financed through an issue of government securities.

After the updating of the budget, the deficit will reach about 11 percent of the GDP projected by the government.

Dlouhy: Nuclear Trade With Iran Must Obey Law

AU1812143693 Prague CTK in English 2034 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)—If the Czech Republic ever considered exporting nuclear technology to Iran it would have to be conducted in accordance with Czech law, Trade and Industry Minister Vladimir Dlouhy said today.

He was reacting to an article in yesterday's NEW YORK TIMES which claimed that the United States had brought pressure to bear on the Czech Government to exact a promise not to permit the Skoda Plzen company to export nuclear technology to Iran in defiance of the UN embargo.

Before any export license were issued the transaction would be subject to very close scrutiny, he said, adding that the Czech Republic would definitely respect world opinion.

The daily reported that U.S. intelligence has ascertained that Iran has embarked on a secret nuclear weapons program and the Defense Department fears that Czech civilian technology might aid the Iranians by providing them with nuclear waste from which plutonium can be extracted for the production of bombs.

Skoda Plzen, the part of the concern which deals with the production of heavy machinery and has considerable experience in nuclear plant construction, admitted this week that its director visited Teheran in November. He reportedly discussed the possibility of "supplying components for a nuclear power station," along with refineries and supplying electric buses.

According to the daily, Dlouhy initially said he would not bar Skoda from pursuing these deals but, following American protest, the government issued a statement declaring that it had not decided, and would not in the foreseeable future decide, to supply Iran with any nuclear technology.

Vondra, Dutch Official: COCOM Should Be Replaced

AU1712213993 Prague CTK in English 1637 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— Czech First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexandr Vondra and Dutch Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Frans Engering agreed on Thursday [15 December] that COCOM should be replaced by a new institution that would better correspond to the needs of the present-day world, CTK learnt from the Foreign Ministry today.

COCOM, or the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, was founded in 1949 as an instrument to prevent the transfer of military technology to communist countries by controlling the sale of strategically important goods by Western exporters.

Vondra and Engering also discussed the conclusions of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the situation in Russia following Sunday's parliamentary elections.

Government To Follow Suit in Recognizing Macedonia

AU1712214593 Prague CTK in English 1921 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— The Czech Republic will follow Europe's democratic states in the question of recognizing Macedonia, the spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, Lucie Pilipova, told CTK today.

"The diplomatic recognition of Macedonia must be approved by the government. The Foreign Ministry is closely watching what other democratic states are doing in this respect. The Czech Republic will deal with the question in the coming days," Pilipova said.

She added that on Tuesday, December 21, the Macedonian deputy foreign minister was expected in Prague for talks with Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Alexandr Vondra. Pilipova added that the meeting had been agreed previously.

On Thursday [16 December], Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands announced their decision to establish diplomatic ties with Macedonia. Sweden and Finland have also informed the former Yugoslav republic of their intention to recognize it.

Klaus Meets With Meciar in Hungary

AU2012113993 Prague CTK in English 1805 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, Dec 18 (CTK)—The prime ministers of the Czech and Slovak Republics, Vaclav Klaus and Vladimir Meciar, met shortly following their attendance in Budapest at the funeral of Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

Following their half-hour meeting at the Slovak Embassy in Budapest, Klaus said that a mutual exchange of information was the reason for the talk, as the leaders of the two countries had not met for some time. He noted that they discussed relations with Hungary and developments in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Meciar would not elaborate on the content of the meeting, saying only that they had spent a little time discussing relation between the two countries. The main thing was, he stated, that "I expressed my respect and thanks for our partnership."

Russian Intelligence Confirms Presence

AU1712214493 Prague CTK in English 1842 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Moscow, Dec 17 (CTK)— The head of the Public Relations Department of the Russian Intelligence Service Yuriy Kobaladze confirmed in an interview granted to CTK today the presence of the Russian intelligence in the Czech Republic.

"To claim that we are not operating there would be absurd. But we are not working against the Czech Republic, we do not finance any groups, we are not involved in blackmail or bribery, and we are not planning to change the regime. But we are interested in the problems the Czech Republic faces and we are following them. We suppose that the same is done by the Czech side in Russia," Kobaladze said.

He was reacting to reports by the Czech media according to which special Russian services were actively operating on the territory of the Czech Republic.

Kobaladze said that discontinuation of the work of the two countries' intelligence services on the territory of the [other] country was not discussed during Czech Interior Minister Jan Ruml's visit to Moscow.

The talks between Ruml and Russian officials focused on problems of concern to the world public, such as international terrorism and organized crime and ways of fighting them, effort to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and others, Kobaladze said.

He pointed out that the number of Russian agents in the Czech Republic had been markedly reduced. "This is logical: Previously, when Czechoslovakia was a socialist country, we had there many people just as in the GDR, Bulgaria, and elsewhere, and the activity was coordinated. Now bilateral relations are being built on entirely different bases," Kobaladze stressed.

He said that the central staff had been reduced by almost 40 percent and the number of agents working abroad had been halved.

Kobaladze noted that the Russian intelligence was using civilized methods in its activity, but admitted that they included the purchase of information from people offering it as well as enlisting collaborators from among the locals. But everything is "voluntary, no pressure or compromising materials are used," he pointed out.

'Advance' Compensation of War Victims Favored

AU1712193393 Prague CTK in English 1602 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— Chairman of Parliament Milan Uhde as well as the chairmen of the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL) and the Christian Democratic Party, Josef Lux and Ivan Pilip, favor the proposal made by Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec to compensate the Nazi-regime victims "in advance."

Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus, who reacted with "no comment" statement on December 6 to this proposal, told journalists today that the coalition talks on the issue had not been held yet.

Uhde and Pilip said that the Czech Republic should first find money for the compensation of the Czech Nazi victims and then claim it from Germany.

According to the Czech Freedom Fighters Union (CSBS, an organization which associates World War Two veterans), the compensation would refer to 8,200 political prisoners of World War Two, 3,100 widows of the executed prisoners, and 300 to 400 orphans. The talks started three years ago, since then some 2,500 former political prisoners have died, the CSBS stated.

Today's meeting on Czech Foreign Policy, convoked by Zieleniec, is attended by President Vaclav Havel, Klaus, Uhde, Lux, Pilip, and chairman of the fourth coalition party ODA (Civic Democratic Alliance) Jan Kalvoda.

Coalition, Havel Meet Discuss Foreign Policy

AU1712214193 Prague CTK in English 1946 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— The broadest possible consensus between the supreme constitutional officials and the chairmen of the coalition government parties is most important in foreign policy, chairman of the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) Ivan Pilip told CTK today.

He was speaking after today's informal discussion of foreign policy attended by President Vaclav Havel, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament Milan Uhde, Premier Vaclav Klaus, Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec, and the chairmen of the four coalition government parties: Klaus (Civic Democratic Party, ODS), Pilip, Josef Lux (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party, KDU-CSL), and Jan Kalvoda (Civic Democratic Alliance, ODA).

"We discussed particularly relations between the Czech Republic and the other European states and European structures," Pilip said adding that the participants agreed not to provide any detailed information.

The spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry Lucie Pilipova said that Zieleniec intended to hold similar meetings in the future as well.

The meeting was held in reaction to criticism from some politicians and parties, including Kalvoda, that the Czech foreign policy was not coordinated and that in fact there existed three foreign political lines—Havel's, the government's, and parliament's.

Before the meeting today, Klaus said that "coordination is a strong word. I believe that similar meetings will rather help bring about greater consensus on some questions."

Investigation Begins Into Secret Service Leaks

AU1612070893 Prague CTK in English 2102 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 15 (CTK)—Prague city prosecutors are beginning criminal investigations to look into the leak of Security Information Service (BIS) secrets into the mass media.

Representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office Miloslav Vlk and Libor Grygarek emphasized that BIS operational secrets, not state secrets, were at issue.

They added that it was still too early to seek indictments against individuals believed to have leaked BIS secrets.

Officials Discuss Intelligence Services Financing

AU1612150393 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 13 Dec 93 p 2

["km"-signed report: "Intelligence Services Received Enough Funds for Their Operation"]

[Text] Prague—Beginning next year, the Security Information Service [BIS] will develop. BIS Director Stanislav Devaty said that the budget amount approved by the parliament facilitates the development of this secret service.

While the counterespionage had a little over 400 million korunas at its disposal this year, it can spend approximately 500 million next year. The government recommended a sum 180 million lower but the parliament did not accept the proposal.

Devaty said that the intelligence service has stabilized this year, and added that he is satisfied with the assigned amount. If the parliament did not decide on its increase by 100 million korunas, the BIS operation would be seriously threatened, according to Devaty.

Interior Minister Jan Ruml refused to disclose the budget of the civilian intelligence service because that is, according to him, secret information. He only said that the amount approved suffices for the operation of the service.

Defense Minister Antonin Baudys also refused to disclose the amount of money earmarked for the military intelligence services. According to our sources, however, the military intelligence should have almost 250 million at its disposal and the military defense intelligence 100 million korunas.

MSD Express Dissatisfaction With RB

AU1712112593 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 14 Dec 93 p 2

["alm"-attributed report: "The Young Social Democrats Do Not Trust the Realistic Bloc"]

[Text] Prague—The Young Social Democrats (MSD) do not see in the present composition of the Realistic Bloc (RB) any prospects for the future. This is stated in the resolution of the political chamber of the MSD Central Council. "Certain Czech Social Democratic Party partners in the RB are either internally disintegrating or unreliable for the public, some only have a minute influence, and they lack the so much needed intellectual potential that would internally reinforce the noncommunist democratic opposition," the resolution reads. On the other hand, according to the MSD, great reserves for the opposition activity are hidden in the well executed and planned social democratic opposition policy.

LSNS Leader Expels LSU Officials

AU1712120693 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 14 Dec 93 p 2

["alm"-signed report: "Hirs Expells LSU Officials"—Pavel Hirs is chairman of the Liberal National Social Party]

[Text] Prague—At its session on Saturday [11 December] the Central Executive Committee of the Liberal National Social Party [LSNS] canceled the membership of the Liberal Social Union LSU officials—secretary P. Mison, foreign policy secretary J. Holub, and press spokesman A. Vebr. LSNS press secretary J. Sebek confirmed this to RUDE PRAVO observing that their LSU membership was contrary to the LSNS statutes.

The LSNS Central Executive Committee appealed to the former communist parliament deputies, who in the spring of 1989 voted in favor of or did not protest against the adoption of the so-called truncheon law, to accept it as their moral duty to resign from LSNS bodies. "Although I was a member of parliament, I left at the time of the vote," L. Dvorak, former Federal Assembly deputy and former Czechoslovak Socialist Party chairman, told RUDE PRAVO. Former Federal Assembly Deputy B. Hykova told RUDE PRAVO: "I will not leave the Central Executive Committee just because I was in parliament at that time."

KDS Chairman Interviewed after Election

AU1712123793 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 14 Dec 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Ivan Pilip, chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, by Ivo Zaloudek; place and date not given: "I Want to Focus on Today's Problems"]

[Text] The hitherto deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Party [KDS], Ivan Pilip, was elected party chairman on Sunday [12 December]. DENNI TELEGRAF put several questions to him on this occasion.

[Zaloudek] You are the new KDS chairman. How much will KDS policy change?

[Pilip] One of our basic principles is to rebuild a natural structure of functioning society—which has been destroyed—and to part with the past. However, I would be

happy if our parting with the past went alongside with our solving the problems appearing today, and if we established a positive program. This, together with the education of new people, is the best way to part with the past quickly, in my view. I also want our party to orient itself toward the constantly changing priorities in politics. Politics are now getting to the regional level, and problems such as taxes, non- profit organizations, and the education and health care systems are gaining priority. We should elaborate, on the basis of our general program, a clear and more-detailed program, and explain it to our electorate. We should gain more support for our program through the mass media.

[Zaloudek] All the party chairmen of the coalition parties are not only ministers, but also deputy prime ministers. You are "only" deputy minister.

[Pilip] From the party's viewpoint, this is a certain imbalance. I am not satisfied with it. On the other hand, it is not the time for us to form a government now and distribute functions. I believe that my post of deputy minister of education gives me an opportunity for cooperation with the minister, who may not be a member of our party, but who has run for this party, and has important clout in an exceptionally important sector. We also discuss a lot of problems in groups such as the Coalition Four, Nine, or 13, where we can present our opinions. I believe that I could participate in a government meeting if there were problems.

[Zaloudek] Before the congress, rumors had appeared that the so-called reformist wing of the KDS, to which you belonged, could merge with the Civic Democratic Alliance [ODA].

[Pilip] This a political rumor. I had no dealings with the ODA before the congress, and we had no plans to merge. I know that, before the congress, there was an article in CESKY DENIK by Petruska Sustrova, in which she said that a reformist wing wanted to merge with the ODA. I consider this article to be a manifestation of nonprofessionalism. I have said several times that, even if I were not elected chairman, I would not do anything like that. It is interesting that this statement of mine was overshadowed by a single article, the circumstances of which are curious, in my opinion.

[Zaloudek] Nevertheless, your are believed to have slightly withdrawn your support from the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and given it to the ODA.

[Pilip] I, and several of my supporters, held a discussion and decided that the KDS should base its existence exclusively on cooperation with the ODS. Of course, the ODS was our closest election partner, and we are supporting the main stream of changes that are being carried out by the ODS. Nevertheless, we differ in our opinions on a number of matters. I believe that we should assume our position within the coalition on the basis of our program and cooperate with our partners in specific matters where we have the same opinion. We should not think of one of our partners as of our main partner, and only disagree with him occasionally. I would consider it a mistake, since our party has ambitions to occupy an independent position on the Czech political scene.

Kalvoda: Local Government Reform 'Serious' Problem

AU1712152193 Prague CTK in English 1308 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— Chairman of the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) Jan Kalvoda believes that the approach of government coalition parties to the question of local government reform represents an urgent and very serious political problem also "within the coalition."

Kalvoda told journalists today he would not participate in discussion on partial government materials concerning the public administration or local government reform unless a clear coalition agreement and talks preceded it.

He declined to comment on public statements by representatives of the ruling Civic Democratic Party (ODS) on this problem. Kalvoda noted, however, that their common denominator was that they "offer slogans instead of a constructive program."

He criticized a statement by the ODS that rationalization of the state administration should be the first step towards local government reform, arguing that it was impossible to implement rationalization unless its direction is known.

A local government reform will be a key subject of discussion at a meeting of the ODS leadership on Saturday in Benesov, central Bohemia. Kalvoda said he would propose that the meeting take a principle stand on the issue.

Coalition Leaders Not To Escalate 'Discords'

AU1812150393 Prague CTK in English 2010 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)—Interest in unnecessary discords between the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL) not to be escalated, but rather flattened was stressed by the two parties' chairmen, Vaclav Klaus and Josef Lux.

The ODS and the KDU-CSL are two of the four government coalition parties.

Tension between the two parties was indicated by a recent statement by Lux that "the ODS is no longer the ODS with which the KDU-CSL signed the coalition agreement."

Lux then added that the KDU-CSL had registered a shift in the views, positions, and conduct of the ODS, but he did not specify.

Differences exist between the two parties particularly on the restitution of church property. The ODS supports the

restitution of some property only, while the KDU-CSL insists on comprehensive restitution.

Differences between the ODS on the one hand and the KDU-CSL and the two other coalition parties—the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) and the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA)—have also been apparent in other questions, particularly in positions on the decentralization of the state administration. Unlike its partners, the ODS has been quite reserved on the pace of the reform.

ODS, ODA, CSSD Ranked Top Parties

AU1712152393 Prague CTK in English 1216 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) would receive 28 percent of the vote if there were an election now, according to the results of an IVVM [Institute for Public Opinion Research] poll in the first week of December.

Among its coalition partners, the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) would fare best with 11 percent. This confirms evidence of previous months that ODA popularity is growing. The Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL) and the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) would receive 4 percent and one percent respectively.

The strongest opposition party remains the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD), which would receive 11 percent in an election.

The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) would receive 5 percent and the extreme right Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC) 3 percent.

Thirty-seven percent of the respondents said they would definitely vote in an election and 29 percent probably would. Eleven percent definitely would not vote and 10 percent probably not.

Interest in voting thus fell by approximately 7 percent compared to last month, falling most sharply among the less well-educated.

Institute for Public Opinion Research polled 749 people over 18.

ODS Issues Statement on Administrative Reform

AU1812150493 Prague CTK in English 2058 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 17 (CTK)— Democracy cannot be limited to the national level only, but decision-making must be devolved on citizens as much as possible, a statement by the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) said today.

The statement was issued by the party's political leadership in connection with the forthcoming talks between the government coalition parties on the territorial setup of the Czech Republic, slated for Tuesday, December 21.

Petr Cermak, ODS executive [deputy] chairman, categorically denied that the statement reacted to today's words by Jan Kalvoda, chairman of the Civic Democratic Party (ODA), that the government coalition parties' relation to the state and the reform of the state administration was a topical and serious political problem.

The ODS statement dismissed assertions that it held another but the above-mentioned opinion which was entirely in accord with the ODS election program and with the coalition agreement.

The ODS Executive Council approved in mid-November a resolution supporting postponement of the reform of the territorial- administrative setup within the planned decentralization of state power until 1996, when parliamentary elections are to be held.

The other three government coalition parties—the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL), the ODA and the Christian Democratic Party (KDS), and the opposition would like to see the creation of higher territorial units in time for elections to their self-government bodies to be held simultaneously with communal elections, slated for the autumn of 1994.

The government coalition have not even been united in their stands on the number of the higher territorial units.

The reform of state power has been the subject of protracted coalition debates. This led parliament on November 11 to pass a resolution demanding the government to submit by December 31, 1993, a timetable of the reform of public administration and basics of a constitutional law on the establishment of higher self- administrative units.

In its statement today, the ODS said that it "proceeds from the fundamental idea that decision-making must be brought closer to the citizen and therefore it considers it correct for the higher territorial units to be entities as natural as possible, homogeneous from the civic point of view, well legible, and such that they could be overlooked in a certain sense."

That is why the ODS believes that there should be more of them than stated in proposals made thus far.

The biggest number proposed has been thirteen.

The ODS believes that the entity should have the character of a large district or a group of districts rather than of a region as it existed over the past three decades of communist rule, the statement said and stressed the ODS's willingness to participate in preparations for the new territorial setup.

There were seven regions in the Czech Republic under the constitution of 1960—five in Bohemia and two in Moravia.

Meciar Discusses Hungarian Autonomy Plan

LD1712224993 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by correspondent Robert Hanzel; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Hanzel] Prime minister, I suggest that we devote ourselves today to two problems. First, the most discussed subject today is the appeal by the association of towns and villages of Zitny Ostrov which has issued an invitation to a rally which is to take place in Komarno on 8 January 1994 and where they want to be united in expressing their view that the country's government is leading us to a disaster, setting Slovaks and Hungarian against each other, and so on. Their intention is to establish a province with its own self-government and public administration. The National Council of the Slovak Republic obliged the Slovak Government to take a stand on this problem.

[Meciar] The struggle that is taking place in southern Slovakia is a struggle of a certain extreme group of politicians, in particular from the Egyutteles movement and a section of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement who want to reinforce the awareness of belonging to Hungary, the Hungarian Republic, and who want to establish units which in essense would mean the setting of ethnic borders between national minorities and the Slovak nation. This is basically an intermediate step which would lead to irredentism, that is, to the separation of the southern territories of Slovakia. They do not realize that by this they are in effect preparing a tragedy for the Hungarian nationality citizens of the Slovak Republic. This is why the government was, is, and will be against such attempts. At the same time it must in this struggle select the means that are appropriate to the situation and the real danger.

[Hanzel] I shall repeat it once more, prime minister. The appeal asserts on the one hand that the country's political leaders are setting the cohabitating Slovaks and Hungarians against each other and are provoking unrest. Several lines further on we can read that the greatest tolerance and mutually good relations prevail between the Hungarian and Slovak population. How can an ordinary man and a citizen who does not live in the south make head or tail of it. Is unrest already taking place there, he may possibly ask himself? Or does someone want such unrest to happen at any cost? I had the opportunity to find out for myself that there exists at least such an understanding in southern Slovakia between Slovaks and Hungarians as it exists between neighbors or colleagues in central Slovakia.

[Meciar] There does not exist a crisis of coexistence between Slovaks and Hungarians in the south. There does exist, however, a crisis of a policy which wants to shape this coexistence for the future and this policy is represented precisely by certain representatives of the supporters of Duray and partly of Csaki [leaders of Egyutteles and Hungary Christian Democratic Movement] It is precisely because of what is going on and in anticipation what was going to happen that the Slovak Government requested an international inspection to find out how human and civic rights are being observed. The outcome of that inspection was positive in all aspects.

Why is it then that some people are soiling their own nest and trying to persuade foreign countries that their objective findings was in fact a finding that was not objective. The policy being presented by these representatives is in effect a policy aimed against the Hungarian minority. This is why the Slovak Government is keeping a cool and level head. It has, of course, been wrestling with this phenomenon for a long time and will still wrestle with it for a long time until the situation is settled to such an extent that citizens of Hungarian nationality themselves reject false prophets, until they themselves say whether it is in their interest to do so, and until they are able to react freely and democratically in their own homeland, the Slovak Republic.

[Hanzel] It is said that there would not have been any appeal if the Slovak Government did not provoke them with its planned territorial division, which, it is alleged, is an attempt to split the Hungarian ethnic minority in southern Slovakia. They do not agree with the establishment of artificial regions either.

[Meciar] A decentralization of decision-making cannot, after all, be against minorities. It cannot be against anyone when problems are allowed to be tackled where they arise. We in the Slovak Government have come to the conclusion that we could revert to the model of the organization that existed here up to 1960, that is, to the system that was already tried and which would envision the creation of the Kosice-Presov, Zilina-Bystrica, Trnava-Nitra, Trencin, and Bratislava regions. This is not at all aimed against the Hungarian minority since such a division would mean that the proportion of the population of Hungarian nationality compared with Slovaks would increase in individual regions. What, therefore, is at issue?

However, there also exists a second possible option. If such a division into smaller regions is not possible the government will have to seek another concessional alternative which would be the restoration of former regions. Would they then be satisfied?

The pressure represented by the Hungarian minorities has had its international dimension in that, although the government has not as yet begun to do anything, they already put up notices in the Council of Europe that by carrying out a territorial organization we would violate human rights. This is why we did not put forward the bill on territorial division to the parliament. We consulted the matters first of all with the Council of Europe. Their experts were present and they confirmed that our conduct was in order and that it was not aimed against minorities. On the contrary, it was accomodating toward

them and the proposed project was accepted by experts. Their objection was therefore made unnecessary.

Let us then attempt to consider what they intend to put forward. If the center of such an administration were to be located in Komarno, as they in fact want, then let us imagine that a person in Ciarna nad Tisou would have to spend two days travelling to Komarno via Kosice and back in order to deal with one matter, in order to find the relevant officer was not there. This is nonsense. This is something that would make the conditions of life of Hungarian citizens of the Slovak Republic more difficult and is in essense against them. If, therefore, someone wants to revoke anything then it is not the Slovak Government. The supporters of Duray and others want to create in Slovakia an administration that would be identical with the occupation administration of Slovak territories between 1938 and 1945, and there have been enough of such historical reminiscences.

As for the legality or not of these acts, I have to say also the following: They do not need to tell us that this is not at variance with the law. A citizen can do anything that is not prohibited by the law. Organs of state administration and other entities can do anything that is permitted by the law. It is an unlawful activity until the law permits such activities. Furthermore, following this discussion, I am considering in broader dimensions why this situation has become possible at all. Today, when forces within Slovak society are being polarized against each other and when the efforts of the opposition are aimed against the government, a game has opened up before representatives of the Hungarian political parties as has never happened before in history. This is because the opposition needs them in order to attack the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, and since they need them they have to retreat. They [the Hungarians] are thefore in effect profiting from this situation.

[Hanzel] This is precisely what I wanted to ask you. Do you envision that the government or the Slovak National Council would tolerate such a course of action?

[Meciar] They would not tolerate it. If such bodies were set up it would mean the adoption—or rather the government's initiative aimed at securing the adoption—of a law on the protection of the republic with all the consequences as well as a proposal that would prohibit such activities and place them and their protagonists outside the law, and they have to reckon with this.

I would like to say the following—and I am in particular addressing the citizens of Hungarian nationality. This is our common homeland. We, Slovaks and Hungarians, have lived, are living, and shall live here side by side for many generations. Let us seek what binds us together. Let us not draw a dividing line and let us not assess a person according to his or her nationality. Let us assess him or her on whether he or she is good or bad, whether he or she is wise or unwise. Let us seek a way of maintaining peace and let us defend it against those who are undermining it, whether they do this in the name of Hungary, whether they do this in the name of fulfilling their falsehood and mistaken notions both about the past and the future. [passage omitted]

Kovac Addresses Journalists

LD1912215493 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Report on news conference by Slovak President Michal Kovac in Bratislava on 19 December]

[Text] [Announcer] This afternoon in the Primate Palace [seat of Slovak president] in Bratislava Michal Kovac, president of the Slovak Republic, met officials of political parties represented in the Slovak parliament. A news conference started 15 minutes prior to our Radiozurnal. Our editor Bernard Hornak was there.

[Hornak] Journalists, including two teams from Hungarian television, showed extraordinary interest in the president's meeting with opposition [as received] parties. The news conference in the Primate Palace is probably still going on. We are going to broadcast the full text of an opening address by Michal Kovac, president of the Republic.

[Begin Kovac recording] I would like to return to talks we held on 17 December with officials of the Association of Towns and Villages of the Zitny Ostrov region [SMOZO], who had initiated the appeal for a national meeting of citizens in Komarno on 8 January next year. I was satisfied with our talks, as well as with the stance taken by SMOZO officials. I think that such talks have great significance in calming the atmosphere and creating a different one, as far as our relations, or relation to the Hungarian minority is concerned.

I have not been fully satisfied with today's talks, some aspects have even alarmed me slightly. I was satisfied above all with the positions of officials of individual political entities, which express their preparedness regarding deliberations to accept comments and stances by the minorities, the Hungarian minority, for two amendments of the law on registering births and the law on official language.

As far as the law on registering births is concerned, sufficient willingness has been shown to make it possible for the draft principles of the law, already discussed by the government, to be favorably assessed by the parliament and thus adopted.

Regarding the [law on] names of villages, there were comments made concerning the government bill. A rare consensus was reached on comments made by the Hungarian minority representatives demanding that in addition to the option of [the names'] transcription and translation, there should also be an option of using different historical names. A consensus was reached on this issue and a promise was made that officials of individual parties would strive to make the deputies take this course of action.

However, I was not satisfied with stances taken by Mr [Vojtech] Bugar [chairman of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement] and Mr Miklos Duray [chairman of the Coexistence].

I called on them to discuss at their parties' political boards a proposal I put forward on 17 December. Namely, the proposal that the 8 January meeting not take place, and that it not take place under the slogan which had been used for the convocation of the meeting. [I have called on them] to take a positive step to meet others half-way, which would make it possible for the laws I have already mentioned to be discussed by the parliament in order to open the way for their approval. Unfortunately, they are not yet prepared to put forward their stance. We only agreed on the extension of my deadline until 21 December for SMOZO to express their stance.

In this context I would like to point out once again that I made it clear that the appeal's formulations and statements were not acceptable to the president of the Slovak Republic. It is unacceptable also as far as one point of its program is concerned, that is, the intention to form certain self-administrative territories extending from Bratislava to the Ukraine border. I have stressed this several times today.

I would like to take this opportunity to deal with one more issue. Based on a Czech news agency [CTK] report, I was informed that a news report was circulated about my talks with [Hungarian] President [Arpad] Goncz that said, Kovac in his talks allegedly acknowledged that the dissatisfaction of the Hungarian minority was justified because the relevant Slovak bodies had not dealt sufficiently with its problems, demands, and complaints so far.

I want to declare that this is incomplete and misleading information. My talks with President Goncz were really very open and sincere. I informed President Goncz about some open issues. We talked, in particular, about three or, in fact, four issues: first, the form of surnames [the adopted law allows for any form to be entered in the register]; second, bilingual [place] names; third, territorial reorganization of the Slovak Republic; and four, the openness [priepustnost] of the borders between the Slovak and Hungarian Republics.

I made it clear that any proposal to set up territorial, educational, or cultural autonomy is unacceptable to Slovakia. I informed [President Goncz] about these issues being dealt with by transferring powers from central bodies to towns and villages. I also told the president that according to the representatives of the Hungarian minorities, the new system of districts, which is to be different from the present one, is acceptable to Hungarian minorities.

However, the overall, large territorial set-up, which has not been resolved so far, is a different matter. I told Mr Goncz quite openly that if the ideas held by the representatives of the Hungarian minorities were based on what was stated in the [SMOZO] appeal, they would be really unacceptable to Slovakia. As the president of the republic I cannot give my support to this.

I admitted that in a certain period the representatives of the Hungarian minorities as well as deputies could have felt that the government or other bodies did not react sufficiently to their proposals and initiatives, which is why I have introduced the presidential-level roundtable to create a platform for the presentation of ethnic minorities' demands. This is why I have taken upon myself to occasionally organize joint meetings with the representatives of all parliamentary parties and movements with the objective of trying to adopt compromise stances and to come to an agreement.

I tried to make it clear today, and I told this to the [Hungarian] president as well, that no pressure by either various rallies or directed through the international community would help in resolving these issues. I therefore appealed, as I do appeal now, for accommodating steps. We need to build up mutual trust and this can be built by accommodating steps. One such accommodating step is for the meetings in Komarno and Surany not to take place. Simply, we should put an end to pressure activities and continue a matter-of-fact dialogue. [end recording]

Asks Hungarians To Reconsider

AU1812150193 Prague CTK in English 1849 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 17 (CTK)—Slovak President Michal Kovac asked today the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement (MKDH) deputies to reconsider their attitude to the meeting convoked by the Association of Towns and Villages of Zitny Ostrov (SMOZO) in order to calm down the tense atmosphere, presidential spokesman Anton Bodis told CTK today.

The meeting of local elected officials in Komarno, south Slovakia, on January 8 is allegedly to establish a 100-member assembly and a "Hungarian province" in south Slovakia.

Some 560,000 ethnic Hungarians live in Slovakia, largely in its southern part, forming 11 percent of the country's population.

The MKDH-Egyutteles (14 deputies in the 150-seat Slovak Parliament) has agreed with the meeting, although "it is not entirely identified" with the call by the SMOZO to establish a "Hungarian province."

Kovac met today with MKDH parliamentarians, Bodis said.

Requested by supreme constitutional officials, Kovac assumed the initiative to resolve the problem which stirred up Slovak political scene and which is being discussed by the Slovak Parliament.

President Michal Kovac discussed today the situation in south Slovakia with representatives of the Association of Towns and Villages of Zitny Ostrov (SMOZO), presidential spokesman Anton Bodis told journalists.

The meeting was attended by Parliament Chairman Ivan Gasparovic and parliamentarians responsible for state administration, territorial self-rule, and ethnic minorities, Bodis said.

Kovac asked the SMOZO to take two reconciliatory steps: To dissociate itself from the idea of a (Hungarian) province or regional autonomy and to put off the Komarno meeting for a later time in order to calm down the situation. In such a case, he would accept the invitation to Komarno, Bodis added.

"If it is supposed to be just a meeting of the elected representatives, where the SMOZO wants to verify the opinion of majority, then Kovac deems it correct. But if it will be a meeting which will exert pressure, then he does not deem it correct," Bodis stated.

According to Istvan Pasztor, SMOZO chairman and Komarno mayor, only the Council of the SMOZO can decide about the postponement. He said that the SMOZO call was a reaction to the government plans to create seven regions with regional self-rule.

"It does not suit the Hungarian minority that it would find itself in a minority position, in which it could be outvoted, and it could not put through its interests," he said. According to Pasztor, the SMOZO is striving for a region with mixed population. "According to our calculations, the ratio between Hungarians and Slovaks would be close to 50-50 or 60-40. It will not be a Hungarian territory," he added.

According to Pasztor, Kovac understood the demand that the proportion of the Hungarian population does not decline under 20 percent due to the reform of the administrative set-up, "which, according to the current laws, would mean a loss of its right to the mother tongue."

Pasztor shares the view, however, that the demands raised by the Hungarian minorities cannot be "pushed through" in the present parliament.

On Monday [20 December] SMOZO representatives will appear before parliamentary committee which is to propose further parliamentary action on the Komarno appeal.

HZDS Against Autonomy

AU1812150293 Prague CTK in English 2108 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 17 (CTK)—Leading representatives of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) said that they "are against any moves directed at irredentism and division of Slovakia," Slovak Television reported.

They reacted to a meeting convoked by the Association of Towns and Villages of Zitny Ostrov (SMOZO) on January 8 with the aim of "establishing a region with a special legal status."

In his inaugural address to the HZDS meeting in Detva, central Slovakia, Premier Vladimir Meciar assessed the economic and domestic situation in Slovakia.

The meeting participants stated that "in 1993 the Slovak economy stabilized and Slovakia is heading for positive indicators in the European context in 1994," HZDS and government Deputy Chairman Sergej Kozlik said.

Kozlik is convinced that the draft budget was carefully prepared and will be adopted by parliament. Debate on the budget opens next week.

HZDS Leadership Holds 'Closed' Meeting

AU1712144893 Prague CTK in English 1136 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Detva, central Slovakia, Dec 17 (CTK)— A one-day working meeting of the Slovak cabinet members for the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and chairmen of HZDS regional branches around Slovakia began here today, Slovak Radio reported.

It is another in a series of HZDS internal closed meetings discussing problems of individual regions, the Slovak Radio said.

Observers expect that the situation in southern Slovakia in connection with the December 6 statement of the Council of Towns and Villages of Zitny Island will be the main subject of discussion. According to the statement, a meeting of representatives of these towns and villages will be held January 8 to discuss the establishment of a self-governing region with its own public administration and a special legal status on the basis of a Council of Europe recommendation.

Observers believe that next year's budget bill and the situation in the coalition between the HZDS and the Slovak National Party (SNS) will be other topics for discussion. Slovak Premier and HZDS chairman Vladimir Meciar told Slovak Television on Tuesday [14 December] that the government coalition had found itself in a crisis position.

Ukraine Not Against Countries Joining NATO

AU1712192993 Prague CTK in English 1549 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 17 (CTK)— Ukraine is not opposed to the entry of Slovakia and other postcommunist countries into NATO so categorically as Russia, but believes that the countries should rely more on their own forces rather than on aid from the West which is not arriving, Ambassador Petro Sardachuk said today. Sardachuk, Ukrainian ambassador to Slovakia, gave today his first press conference since he assumed the post.

Turning to cooperation between Ukraine and Slovakia, he said that its promotion was hindered by the existence of a sole road border crossing between the two countries, Uzhhorod-Vysne Nemecke. Sardachuk said he believed that the expansion of the crossing and building of two more in the next three years would help solve the situation.

He said he was concerned about the results of the parliamentary elections in Russia last weekend, in which the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy won, but added that he believed that Russia's democratic forces would manage the situation. Sardachuk ruled out the possibility of a party similar to Zhirinovskiy's winning elections in Ukraine next March.

Referring to Ukraine's nuclear arsenal, Sardachuk said its liquidation was in the interest of Ukraine which, however, did not have the necessary financial means and brain potential to do so.

Statistical Office Admits Czechs Faring Better

AU1712075093 Prague CTK in English 2055 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 16 (CTK)—The rate of growth of the gross domestic product is higher in the Czech Republic than in Slovakia, chairman of the Slovak Statistics Office Rudolf Krc said at a press conference today. The Czech GDP reached 664.4 billion Czech crowns (about $22.2 billion) in the first nine months of the year, in Slovakia the figure was 249.7 billion Slovak crowns (about $7.4 billion). The Czech Republic's population is about twice as big as Slovakia's.

Slovakia's GDP in stable prices declined by 4.9 percent in the same period and amounted to 129.8 billion Slovak crowns (about $4 billion), while the Czech GDP declined by 0.9 percent and amounted to 294.3 billion Czech crowns (about $10 billion), Krc said.

The monthly rate of inflation in September was 2.4 percent in Slovakia and 1.4 percent in the Czech Republic. The cost of living of Slovak employees rose by 2.6 percent while the cost of living of Czech employees went up by only 1.4 percent. The rate of unemployment stood at 13.7 percent in Slovakia and at 3.2 percent in the Czech Republic.

Krc said that the average pay in companies with more than 25 employees was also better in the Czech Republic than in Slovakia over the first nine months of the year. In industry, Slovaks earned 5,240 Slovak crowns per month (about $160) while Czechs earned 5,738 Czech crowns (about $190). The biggest difference was in construction—5,283 Slovak crowns for Slovaks against 6,348 crowns for Czechs, Krc said.

Peter Boross Nominated for Prime Minister

LD2012101893 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] President of the Republic Arpad Goencz has announced that he is making a submission for Acting Prime Minister Peter Boross to be given the mandate of prime minister.

Prior to this, the head of state conferred with Gyorgy Szabad, speaker of the National Assembly, and then with Peter Boross, the Hungarian Democratic Forum's candidate.

The National Assembly will decide on the nomination for prime minister.

'Last Farewell' to Antall in Parliament

AU1712124993 Budapest MTI in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 17 Dec (MTI)—High-ranking public figures from all over the world are saying their last farewell on Friday [17 December] to Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, who died last Sunday [12 December].

Antall lies in state in the Dome Hall of Parliament.

The ceremony started in the morning, when the members of the Guard of the Republic lined up to stand a guard of honour beside Antall's coffin.

The coffin is covered by the national flag, the one that used to be in Antall's room. A wreath laid by his widow and sons is nearest to the coffin. Four other wreaths are also there: those of President Arpad Goncz, of the National Assembly, of the Government and of the Hungarian Democratic Forum.

From 9 A.M., members of the diplomatic corps in Budapest and other foreign and Hungarian protocol guests have been paying tribute to the memory of Antall in Parliament's Dome Hall.

The first to bid the last farewell to Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall in Parliament's Dome Hall on Friday was President Arpad Goncz. He was followed by Parliament Speaker Gyorgy Szabad.

The next to pay tribute to Antall's memory were members of the government and representatives of government offices. Leaders of embassies and diplomatic missions in Budapest then bowed in front of Antall's catafalque, with Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Acerbi being the first.

Ukraine's Kravchuk Confirms 'Nuclear-Free' Pledge

AU1812165593 Budapest MTI in English 1639 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, December 18 (MTI)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who arrived in Hungary to attend Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's funeral today, held talks with U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Budapest.

Kravchuk told MTI that the negotiations had focussed on bilateral ties. The politicians outlined their position on the START-1 Treaty and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Kravchuk stressed that they held identical views on the main issues. Ukraine confirmed its commitment to become a nuclear-free state. This would solve a lot of problems for both Ukraine and the whole world, he said.

The Ukrainian president stressed the need for a trilateral agreement to be concluded between Ukraine, Russia and the United States. If this agreement guarantees political, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, it will be as important as the previous bilateral agreements were, namely it will contribute to the destruction of nuclear weapons, the president said.

Kravchuk and Gore agreed that Ukraine's economic crisis could be eased through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

In conclusion, the Ukrainian president said he was satisfied with the negotiations.

Minister Kadar Views GATT Agreement

AU1912201293 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 17 Dec 93 p 11

[Interview with Foreign Economic Relations Minister Bela Kadar by Zoltan B. Kelemen; place and date not given: "The Threat of a Trade War Is Over"]

[Text] [Kelemen] In your opinion, what is the greatest importance of the recent GATT agreement?

[Kadar] If no agreement had been reached, the danger of an economic confrontation and trade war would have increased considerably. This would have had a negative effect, primarily on small, foreign trade-sensitive countries through a slowdown in the rate of world economic growth. Thus, the failure to reach an agreement would have contributed to an increase in unemployment and social and political tensions. The greatest merit of the agreement is that it has eliminated this danger that has already mobilized protectionism and the connected extremist political forces in Central Europe.

[Kelemen] How can Hungary profit from all this?

[Kadar] The GATT agreement does not affect our free trade agreements signed so far. Some 70 percent of our foreign trade turnover is already regulated by these agreements. The current multilateral liberalization represents new conditions for the remaining 30 percent. From the viewpoint of our product structure, our agriculture and industrial trade could receive a positive impulse, because, as a result of the heritage of the past decades, Hungary was less involved in the trade of services.

[Kelemen] Exporters of agricultural products expect the most from this agreement. Will the more favorable export conditions be sufficient for the agricultural sector to extricate itself from its present situation?

[Kadar] Not necessarily in itself, but the agreement definitely creates more favorable conditions. In the case of agricultural products, the essential thing is that customs will decrease by 36 percent over a period of six years. The practice of customs duty has been accepted now—in other words, it is now possible to turn the various trade limitation licensing practices into customs, and the customs duty can be reduced. The subsidies used in the agricultural and commercial sectors will also decrease now on subsidies for production by 20 percent, on the amount of subsidized exports by 21 percent, and on the direct export subsidies by 35 percent.

[Kelemen] When will this agreement produce tangible results?

[Kadar] According to the Geneva decision, the document will be signed by the ministers of 117 countries in Morocco in the middle of April 1994. Given the speed of the ratification procedures, the agreement will probably go into effect in July 1995, and then we will start feeling its trade development and growth-incentive effect. Naturally, all this will take place during a longer period of about six years. According to the OECD and GATT, this agreement can increase the value of world trade by $210-300 billion by the beginning of the next century.

[Kelemen] How will this change the Hungarian trade regulations?

[Kadar] Within six years after the agreement becomes valid, we will eliminate the licensing practice in our imports of agricultural products, and we will change these regulations into customs regulations. The current 20-percent import duty on agricultural products might increase to 45 percent, and then we will reduce this by 31 percent, slightly less than the average. On the basis of our exports results and exports structure of 1992, our agricultural sector will get a surplus income of $100-130 million.

[Kelemen] To what extent will we have to modify Hungary's economic policy in the wake of the new agreement?

[Kadar] Competitiveness rather than the bigger bargaining power of some big countries will determine the trade positions in the second half of this decade. Hungary has professional advantages, and these regulations will enable the assertion of these advantages in principle. However, our economic policy will have to focus on improving the country's competitiveness and production competitiveness much more than hitherto.

Further Aid To Come From Germany

AU1712175293 Budapest MTI in English 1504 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 17 Dec (MTI)—Preparations for a German-Hungarian aid project starting next year were the main issue in talks between German Economic State Secretary Walter Kittel and Hungarian International Economic Relations Ministry State Secretary Laszlo Bogar today.

At a press briefing after the talks, the two state secretaries said that this year Hungary received aid from the German Government of DM120-130 million, including DM50 million in cash. A total of 200 projects were supported with DM60 million of the aid, mainly in education and training.

Next year, Hungary may expect DM20 million in aid from Germany. According to the International Economic Relations Ministry, this will be used in infrastructure development, privatization, scientific research and agriculture. Priority will be given to new small and medium-sized enterprises.

Goncz, Slovak President Discuss Relations

LD1812175893 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Hungarian President Arpad Goncz hopes that Slovak-Hungarian relations will improve, and, as a first sign of this that further border crossings will be opened. The president expressed this desire when he received Slovak President Michal Kovac, who expressed his condolences over the death of Jozsef Antall. Arpad Goncz also expressed his hope that the problems in Slovakia concerning names, bilingual placename signs, and administrative boundaries will be resolved very soon.

Interviews on Slovak Hungarians Autonomy

LD1912120793 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0805 GMT 19 Dec 93

[From the "World Clock" program]

[Excerpts] On 8 January representatives of Slovakia's Hungarians are to hold a mass rally in Komarno to decide on the concept of the so-called southern region which could form an independent administrative unit in the Hungarian-inhabited Slovak territories. [passage omitted] Our Bratislava correspondent, Ildiko Nagy, now sums up the events so far and the background to them.

[Nagy] [Passage omitted] Why has this now become an issue? We asked [Chairman of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement] Deputy Bela Bugar.

[Begin Bugar recording] For 18 months now we have been striving to get this government to start a dialogue with the minorities. So, that is one reason why the initiative was born. I cannot conceive of any decision

that might halt this initiative. After all, in the terms of the law, any organization has the right to call such a meeting. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Nagy] After the parliamentary debate [on 16 December] that lasted five hours, I asked Deputy Speaker [of the Slovak Parliament] Peter Weiss whether in his opinion all those who spoke were thoroughly acquainted with the problem, or whether they merely considered it necessary to express their opinions in the heat of their emotions.

[Begin Weiss recording, in Slovak with superimposed Hungarian translation] I do not think one can expect all the deputies to understand the details of the issue. This personal and far from objective debate would not have needed to happen if the parliament's relevant committee—that is the one dealing with the self- administrations, the nationalities, and state administration—had taken a stance on the issue after listening to those concerned. [passage omitted] We might then even have been able to find a solution, but at all events, there could have been a reduction in the tension that at this moment could lead to unconsidered steps. [end recording]

[Nagy] The one most competent to speak about the Kormarno mass rally is Istvan Pasztor, mayor of Komarno and chairman of the Association of Towns and Villages of Zitny Ostrov. So, what is the purpose of the January meeting, I asked him?

[Begin Pasztor recording] We would like somehow to reach a coordinated view, or a basic stance, on the issue of public administration—that is, the state and the future of public administration—mainly in view of the fact that the government has prepared Slovakia's administrative division into seven or perhaps eight public administrative regions. The second issue would be the role of the self-government, the situation of the self-governments henceforth. The third agenda point would be our constitutional situation, and the outlining of the draft constitution that the coalition submitted to the government, to parliament, over six months ago, and with which not a lot has happened since then.

I think everyone is very well aware that if a meeting of this kind, a meeting of this nature and this spirit, ends in scandal, then it cannot be repeated in a short time, not even in 10 years, I think. In that event Slovakia's Hungarians would only have lost. [end recording]

Privatization Tender Won by U.S., German Group

LD1912232593 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2200 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] The consortium formed by Deutsche Telecom and the American Ameritech Corp has won the tender invited for the privatization of the Hungarian Telecommunications Company [MATAV]. The German-U.S. company has acquired a 30 percent stake in MATAV for $875 million. This is the biggest privatization deal in eastern Europe.

Three consortiums submitted tenders. In addition to the winner, they were a consortium formed by France Telecom and U.S. West Duna Telecom, and a consortium called Euro-Telecom Hungary formed by STET International and Bell Atlantic. The winner has acquired rights for the operation of MATAV for a period of 25 years.

Gyorgy Schamschula, minister of transport, telecommunications, and water management, said at a press briefing following the announcement of the results that the privatization deal will result in 90 percent of Hungary's population being able to receive telephone lines by 1996.

Outcome of Russian Elections Viewed

LD1912121893 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0900 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] According to [Gyula Horn], the chairman of the [Hungarian] Socialist Party [HSP], the Central European countries have moved further away from the possibility of joining NATO because of the outcome of the Russian elections. Gyula Horn, speaking at a Bratislava meeting about Slovak-Hungarian relations, urged the guaranteeing of the common borders and of collective nationality rights. The Hungarian politician stated that the HSP would propose that Hungary and Slovakia conclude the Basic Treaty, that contains the full guarantee of the rights of nationalities, including the validity of collective rights.

Horn also proposed that if either of the two countries were to conclude a military agreement, it should coordinate with its neighbor prior to signing it.

Sejm Agrees to End Excessive Wage Tax

LD1712235293 Warsaw PAP in English 2306 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 17—The Sejm decided on Friday [17 December] to eliminate the excessive wage tax (popiwek) as of March 31, 1994. 168 deputies voted for, 40 against and 90 abstained. A draft law on the excessive wage tax prepared by the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPPZ) proposed to cancel the tax as of January 1, 1994 but the chamber decided to adopt an amendment submitted by Deputy Marek Olewinski of the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) postponing the date of the cancellation until the end of March. Olewinski argued during the debate that a later date would give the government time to prepare a draft law on ways of controlling the growth of pay in public sector. Finance Minister Marek Borowski told reporters shortly before the debate that the excessive wage tax should be eliminated but control over the growth of wages is necessary.

According to Borowski the abandonment of the excessive wage tax at the beginning of next year could result in an 8-10 per cent growth of wages in state enterprises leading to a higher inflation. The adopted law on the elimination of the excessive wage tax states that the norm for an average monthly pay in state enterprises in January 1994 is to be the limit of the average monthly pay in 1993 increased by one twelfth of money actually paid out this year in connection with improved financial results of enterprises. The government intends to prepare a new draft law regulating matters related to the control of pay after the elimination of the excessive wage tax.

The Sejm also passed a law on the establishment of the agency for the restructuring and modernization of agriculture which is to replace the much-criticised fund for the restructuring and reduction of debts of the agricultural sector. Under the adopted law the agency is to be a legal entity which will cooperate with banks to help farmers repay their debts and obtain new credits for the development of agriculture, food processing industry and services related to agriculture. The draft law does not stipulate, however, which branches of production and processing are to get the agency's support. The targets are to be defined in a government ordinance.

The Sejm amended on Friday the law on the management of the agricultural property of the state treasury under which the property of liquidated state farms is being privatized. The amendments introduce additional preferences for tenants as well as more flexible principles of setting the price for auctioned land.

The Sejm decided to reject the Senate's amendments to the law on the principles of special control of trade in goods and technologies important for national security. The Senate sought to introduce a rule that the courts and not the minister of foreign economic relations should decide about the sequestering of goods and technologies in question. The Sejm has not agreed with the Senate's opinion and the law will give such powers to the minister.

The Sejm sent to the committees on Friday draft amendments to the law on ownership transformations in the arms industry. The amendments would make it possible to realize the government's decisions of May 1992 on transforming 28 plants of the arms industry into treasury owned companies with the state preserving the controlling package of shares.

The deputies decided to send the proposed amendments for further examination in the Sejm committees in order to determine precisely the financial condition of the enterprises in question.

The Sejm decided that its next meeting will be held on December 29.

Olechowski on Importance of NATO Membership

LD1912140893 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1105 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] NATO will not be a closed organization in the future, Andrzej Olechowski, the Polish foreign affairs minister, was assured during his stay in Washington.

[Begin Olechowski recording] My main, basic and—in fact—only goal in the United States was to acquaint myself with the details of the Partnership for Peace program and to decide as to whether it will lead to Poland in achieving its strategic aim, which is membership of NATO. I presented all our arguments as to why we want to be in NATO, and I will say straight away that I used two extreme arguments.

Firstly, Poland wants to be in NATO because it feels that it is part of the West and therefore, being integrated with the West means that it should be a member of the institutions of the Western world. Two such fundamental institutions are the European Union—that is the economic and political dimension—and NATO—which is the security dimension of Western countries. So this is our first argument—linked to our aspirations. Thus, our aspirations would be satisfied.

The second [argument] is linked to our apprehensions. We believe that we must—at all costs—ensure that Poland will not become a gray zone. Historically we know that this led to tragic outcomes—not only for us, but for the whole of Europe, too. Two world wars began, one could say, on Polish territory and came about to some extent because a territory that is not anchored to stable and serious institutions becomes a zone to be disputed or colluded over by very powerful neighbors of pan-European and global aspirations. So it is extremely important that Poland, and other Central European countries, should be anchored to an important institution. [end recording]

Comments on NATO Summit

LD1812225393 Warsaw PAP in English 2140 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 18—Polish Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski said Saturday he believed the decisions of the NATO summit in Brussels scheduled for January "will be in greater harmony with Polish expectations than one had thought as recently as a month ago."

Olechowski made the statement talking to reporters at the Warsaw Airport immediately after his return from visits to the United States and Greece. He said he considered the U.S. partnership for peace programme a fair proposal that would eventually result in Poland's membership of NATO.

The programme's aim was not to delay NATO membership but to create the framework for preparing to join the pact, Olechowski stressed. "We want the programme to include a statement that the countries belonging to the Visegrad Group are situated in an area of American and Western interest, and a pledge that NATO membership is at the end of this road," Olechowski said.

Olechowski: No Changes in Minstry Personnel

LD1712132993 Warsaw PAP in English 1122 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 17—Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski ending his visit to the U.S. on Thursday said he does not plan any changes among his closest ministerial associates.

Olechowski, asked to comment on President Lech Walesa's recent statement that he would not allow for coalition parties to appoint deputy ministers at the foreign, defence and internal affairs ministries without prior consent of respective ministers, said that President Walesa referred to the issue in an understandable manner.

We have started work on the modernization of the ministry and the implementation of systemic changes. "I can imagine that when these changes are completed, there must be a place for people representing a given political alignment in the Foreign Ministry, like in all other ministries," said Olechowski.

Rightist Parties To Unify Policy

AU1712130893 Warsaw PAP in English 1634 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 16—Leaders of right wing parties, including Janusz Korwin-Mikke of the Real Politics Union (UPR), Aleksander Hall of the Conservative Party (PK), Jozef Slisz of the Peasant-Christian Party (SLCH), and Pawel Laczkowski of the Party of Christian Democrats (PCHD) are to sign a joint policy declaration tomorrow .

"The signing of this agreement does not mean that we will create one party," Janusz Korwin-Mikke told PAP. "This will be a common policy statement, not a strict coalition agreement," announced PK deputy chair Kazimierz M. Ujazdowski.

"We expect joint political action and good policy cooperation. There will be no strict obligations as in the case of the Center Accord (PC)-Christian-National Union (ZChN)-Peasant Accord (PL) coalition. However, we are hopeful, and this aspiration is confirmed by the fact that we will run together in all the important urban centres in the local government elections," stated Ujazdowski.

"We will certainly share policy as regards current affairs, but we will not be walking the streets shouting loudly, as the PC and the ZChN are in the habit of doing," stressed Korwin-Mikke. The UPR leader added that there are several groups which wish to join "the four", for example the Republican Party. Decisions concerning the acceptance of new partners will be made jointly by all the parties involved.

The original agreement specifying the wish to undertake joint activities was signed by officials of the four parties on November 11 of this year. The parties declared that "in light of the far reaching policy convergence based on the 'constitution of the right', they will undertake joint action in order to defend traditional values, the principle of the balance of executive and legislative powers, private property and the freedom to undertake economic activity, unfettered by high taxes."

The ZChN, PC, and PL signed an agreement on mutual cooperation on November 10, a day prior to the forging of the initial agreement that grouped the UPR, PK, SLCH, and PCHD. However, "the four" have strictly ruled out the possibility of forging yet an even greater right-wing alliance by merging with the "tripartite" alliance.

Hall Discusses Walesa's Alleged Abuse of Power

AU1712112493 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 13 Dec 93 p 2

[Article by Aleksander Hall, leader of the Conservative Party: "The Limits of Authority"]

[Text] I think Poland needs a strong presidency. That is the type of presidency that has been written down in the Small Constitution. However, it is not just legal provisions that determine the significance of a political office. The way in which a particular person fulfills his office is important also.

I fear that Lech Walesa's perception of his role in the state is harmful to the prestige of the office of president. Everyone knows about Lech Walesa's conviction that the president should have as much power as possible. But this idea stems solely from the president's own draft version of the Constitution and from his many statements and those of this colleagues. The president would

like to have complete control over the entire executive apparatus, as well as domination over parliament, which he would like to dissolve whenever he thinks fit. There is nothing to indicate that Walesa views this enormous power as a way of establishing permanent institutions and that he would use these institutions to perpetuate better political culture. On the contrary, it is difficult to avoid the impression that his purpose in having power over the executive is merely to strengthen his own position and implement his "divide and rule" policy. From all his policies so far, it is obvious that he does not want to see the formation of any institutions that could threaten his position, or indeed any institutions that are not dependent on presidential authority. Lech Walesa also has been opposing the appearance of any broader political camp with whom he might have to reckon. Thus, he has implemented the "divide and rule" principle in a masterly fashion.

The president sees himself as a dispenser of favors, and thinks he can send into political oblivion any person whom he previously supported. This was confirmed last week, when he demanded the resignation of members of the National Radio and Television Council, people he had appointed himself. The obvious reason is that the Council had appointed as new head of public television Wieslaw Walendziak, who is known for his independent views and forthright character. The president expressed his disapproval of the Council's decision on several occasions. At first he was offended, and then he forced the very Council members he had previously appointed to resign. Lech Walesa ignores the fact that the Council members were all appointed for a term of office lasting several years, and that the law, as well as public opinion, require that members of the Council be impartial and objective in their assessments and decisions. He also seems oblivious to the danger that the ruling coalition may take advantage of the Council's resultant instability in order to gain domination over it. He was quite simply dismayed at his people's "non-conformability," and that is all that mattered to him.

This sad history provides an excellent illustration of Lech Walesa's concept of power. The construction of permanent institutions, and the inculcation in state officials of the conviction that their purpose is to serve Poland and its laws, guided by of meritorious criteria, is not important. Lech Walesa expects them to conform and be capable of acting according to his whims.

There is much to indicate that Lech Walesa intends to run for a second term as president. I do not know if he will attain that objective. But I have no doubt that Lech Walesa's ideas about exercising power as I have described them, and his relentlessness in personnel matters, are separating him from his objective.

EU Ambassador Expects Talks on Membership

AU1712133093 Warsaw PAP in English 2135 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 16—Negotiations on Poland's full membership of the European Union can be expected to start not earlier than in 1996, European Union ambassador in Poland Alexander Dijckmeester said today.

Speaking at a press conference in Warsaw, Dijckmeester stressed that before such negotiations can begin the European Union must finalize the admission of four EFTA states (Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway) which is expected to take place in 1995.

Dijckmeester stated that Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and also Bulgaria and Romania, which have already signed association treaties with the European Union, will not be treated as one bloc but the admission of each of these countries will be considered separately.

According to Dijckmeester, the main tasks facing Poland on her road to integration with the European Union will be the full implementation of the association treaty, adjustment of her legal system to the western European norms, and the continuation of economic reforms.

He recalled that the treaty, ratified by the European Union on December 6, will come into force on February 1, 1994 and stressed that on February 7-8 the association council of Poland and the European Union will hold its first session in Brussels. In March, the joint commission of the European Parliament and both chambers of the Polish Parliament will hold their first official meeting.

Ambassador Dijckmeester admitted that there was a certain imbalance in the trade between the European Union and Poland, but stressed that the recession in western Europe was the reason behind the diminished imports from Poland. He announced that economic issues will be the subject of discussions between Poland and the European Union during a visit of the union's trade commissioner Leon Brittan to Warsaw in January and a visit by Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak to Brussels in February.

SDRP Leader Insists on Government Rights

LD1912161593 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 1400 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] We are determined to fight for the posts of deputy ministers of defense, internal, and foreign affairs, said Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic [SDRP], in a radio interview. He stressed that the ruling coalition did not wish for conflict with the president. The deputy ministers in these ministries are not members of the Presidential Office, and function within the government structure, said Kwasniewski.

It is surely understandable that we wish to have an influence on [the filling of these posts] said the leader of the Social Democracy, and added that the coalition partners will not give up in this matter. Lech Walesa had expressed the view a little while ago that the politicization of the ministries of defense, internal and foreign

affairs could be a threat to the security of the country, and create divisions in the Army and the police force.

Sejm Symbolically Rejects 1992 Budget

LD1712135693 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1100 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Relayed by Warsaw TV Polonia Network in Polish]

[Text] The Sejm did not endorse the implementation of the 1992 budget. The Sejm vote applies to two cabinets and three premiers: Jan Olszewski, Waldemar Pawlak, and Hanna Suchocka.

[Reporter Iwona Maruszak, identified by screen caption, reporting from the Sejm building] Failure to endorse the implementation of the budget has only symbolic meaning because it concerns governments which no longer exist. In spite of this, it is interesting to note the first vote in which opposition votes are mixed with the coalition. One hundred and forty-six deputies, mainly from the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] and the Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN], voted against the endorsement. Eighty-nine depities, mainly from the Democratic Union [UD] and the Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms [BBWR], opposed.

On the other hand, a large majority on the left side of the hall—that is the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] and the Union of Labor [UP]—abstained. There were 151 such votes.

In about half an hour, the Sejm will consider a bill to abolish the tax on pay rises above the norm as of the end of this year. This bill was prepared by the Sejm Extraordinary Commission for the State Enterprise Pact. Finance Minister Marek Borowski announced that he will not allow this bill to become the law because this would cause uncontrolled growth in earnings and catastrophic inflation.

Court Refuses To Register Polish Television Inc.

AU1712130693 Warsaw PAP in English 1942 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 16—The Warsaw District Court refused to register the "Telewizja Polska SA [Polish Television Inc.] Company, head of the National Radio and Television Council (KRRIT) Marek Markiewicz told a press conference today, and stressed he was surprised by the decision.

The court explained it did not register the company as the submitted documents did not include the composition of the programmatic council of the future company.

Markiewicz stressed the council wanted to appoint programmatic councils for the existing companies and not for the companies which were to be established even in the near future.

According to Marek Wiwiec, a KRRIT member, the date of December 31, 1993, until when the company should be registered, is significant due to formal and financial reasons, as all assessments and balance-sheets will be not valid after the end of the fiscal year.

Wieslaw Walendziak, president of "Telewizja Polska SA," said in a radio interview he was surprised by the decision and added that attempts would be made to make amendments to the statutes to make it possible to register the company as soon as possible. The amendments to the statutes could be made only by the finance minister.

Chairman of the register department of the Warsaw District Court Bohdan Gierzynski said he had asked the company board on Wednesday to submit within 30 days the composition of the programmatic council. He stressed that if the documents were submitted it would be possible to register the company even on December 31, 1993.

Censure Motion Against Government Rejected

AU1712213593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2120 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] We just received the results of the voting on the opposition's censure motion against the government. According to our correspondent, 223 deputies voted in favor of the censure motion and 236 voted against, meaning that the censure motion against the government was rejected by Parliament.

Iliescu Calls on Yeltsin To Save Moldovan

AU1912185593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] The Romanian Presidency has issued the following press communique:

President Ion Iliescu has sent a new, special message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, asking him to directly intervene and save Ilie Ilascu's life and free the detainees who were sentenced by the so-called Tiraspol trial.

In connection with this issue, on 18 December 1993, Constantin Garbea, Romanian ambassador in Moscow, was received by Dimitriy Borisovich (?Dryukin), personal representative of the Russian president, who, on behalf of President Yeltsin, thanked Garbea for the message and said that, in the spirit of its activity as the mediator in settling the Dniester conflict, Russia has made and will continue to make efforts to save Ilie Ilascu's life. Russia expresses the hope that this process will be solved positively, reads the communique that we received a few minutes ago from the Romanian Presidency.

Amnesty International Investigates Sentence

AU1812212193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1500 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/12/1993—Romanian President Ion Iliescu has received a letter from Mrs. Anne Burley, head of the Development Department of the Amnesty International Organization. After thanking for the letter Iliescu addressed to Amnesty regarding the trial of six citizens of the Republic of Moldova in the territory of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, Burley writes that after Ilie Ilascu was sentenced to death she "addressed the officialdom in Tiraspol (capital of the Dniester Republic) and asked that the sentence be commuted." Burley also wrote to the leaders in Tiraspol that she was worried that Ilie Ilascu had been refused, as it seems, the right to appeal to an upper court, which violates international human rights standards. "We shall go on asking a comprehensive investigation of the information saying that part of the convicts made certain statements after having been constrained to."

Iliescu Rejects Hungarian Autonomy Idea

AU2012132693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0904 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1993—In an interview recently granted with the Organizacion Editorial Mexicana press group, reproduced also by daily CRONICA ROMANA, President Ion Iliescu approaches problems of the Hungarian minority in Romania, stressing that the idea of territorial-ethnic autonomy expresses a conception contrary to the European spirit and democratic relations in a society.

Asked whether the Hungarians in Transylvania might provoke a separatist movement toward Hungary, President Iliescu answered: "It is not possible. The Hungarians in Romania count 1.7 million (7 percent of the country's population) and they are scattered across the country. Only in the center of the country there are two small counties where they make the majority. Romania's population counts 23 million. Speaking only of Transylvania, which has some 9 million inhabitants, the Hungarians are still a minority (about 1 million, 1.2 million.) About 300,000 Hungarians live in Bucharest, which, in point of number of Hungarians, is next only to Budapest."

"Certain theses regarding the so-called territorial-ethnic autonomy are dangerous by their very content," Ion Iliescu says. "The principle of autonomy in our country applies to the whole administrative-territorial organization of the country. It is a constitutional principle to secure local autonomy."

"We had local elections in February 1992. All village, town, and city councils were elected by general vote. Wherever the Hungarians make the majority they make also the majority of the respective local and county councils, there are Hungarian mayors. Hence, in this respect, the principle of autonomy is fully observed in our context. But, adding the idea of territorial-ethnic autonomy expresses a conception contrary to the European spirit and democratic relations in a society. This would mean segregation, 'ethnic purge.' This would mean 'bantustanization.'"

Answering the question "is there no official claim by Hungary on the province of Transylvania?," President Iliescu says: "Officially (he Hungarian authorities) have not expressed such a thing. On the contrary, they have officially declared every time they do not have territorial claims against Romania, but underground and even publicly there are political forces that express this nostalgia for the imperial times and ideas of territorial claims."

Ion Iliescu stresses that Romania and Hungary have a mutual interest in establishing good neighborly relations. "We are confident we will find a language of understanding, just like the French and Germans have finally done," he adds.

Melescanu Outlines Importance of Washington Visit

AU2012085693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0736 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/12/1993—Romania's Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu highlighted the interest showed by the U.S. Administration to find solutions to the Romanian side's claims, in a statement made on Sunday [19 December] evening, at Otopeni airport, after returning from a visit to the U.S., adding that Romania's security was one of the issues approached by the U.S. officials during the interviews.

"I consider that this visit to Washington was the most important among the visits initiated by Romania's diplomacy in 1993 on a bilateral plane," Melescanu said.

On the results of his interview with State Secretary Warren Christopher, who showed interest in "finding solutions to the Romanian side's claims," the Romanian head of diplomacy went on to say: "I noticed a full readiness, a strong and clear pledge of the U.S. administration to concretely support Romania's efforts in the process of economic transition and the democratic one. Certainly, this thing takes place under the severe circumstances of developments in our area."

Melescanu referred also to the fact that the U.S. Administration was giving special attention "to the need to prevent several actions and initiatives that could be given interpretations and sometimes perceived by the U.S. public opinion as xenophobia, racism, or anti-Semitism."

"It is not the proper time to make a balance sheet, but I would like to say that during the interviews I approached several issues that could affect directly Romania's security and that have in view our evolution in the area, such as the elections in the Russian Federation, their impact on the security of neighboring states, developments in the former Yugoslavia and the way in which the U.S. could contribute to the insurance of Romania's security, stability and territorial integrity."

Approaching next year's priorities of the Romanian diplomacy, Melescanu said that "one is Romania's integration within Euro-Atlantic bodies," while a second would be to increase efforts for Romania's active presence in finding solutions to conflicts in the area.

Vacaroiu Defends Government Policy

AU1712170293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0700 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian at 0614 GMT on 17 December begins a live relay from Bucharest Metropolitan Hall of a joint session of the Romanian Parliament to debate a censure motion advanced by the opposition against the activity of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu's government.

At 0701 GMT Prime Minister Vacaroiu takes the floor to present the government's view on the country's current economic situation and thus repel the accusations formulated in the nine points of the censure motion.

Vacaroiu begins by pointing out that "the government considers the practice of censure motions, instituted by Romania's Constitution, to be a key element of democracy and a law-governed state. However, with all our respect for the supreme law-making body of the country, we would like to remind you that this is already the third censure motion this session and the umpteenth initiative attempting to remove the government. As a matter of fact, every important moment of the evolution of the current administration has been marked by confrontations and provocations. The seats reserved for the government in parliament hall has turned, as so many times before, into a real rut, as we have to justify and explain things, but they did not turn into seats reserved for culprits as some ambitious politicians would have preferred. The essential fact remains that every time we managed to clear up things and every time the realistic and lucid politicians, animated by the ideals of bettering Romania's social-moral profile in this moment of its history, decided in favor of the real, viable course of reform that corresponds both to international standards and to the exigency of preserving our national identity."

Vacaroiu then attacks the proponents of the censure motion by saying that "Actually the censure motion refers to the results of the reform performed throughout the four years that have elapsed since 1989. However, in a biased and ostentatious way, all negative consequences are attributed exclusively to the current administration, condemning its activity over the past year. Actually they are trying to exploit the current situation, especially that of social categories that have small incomes, that of the youth, the unemployed, and retirees. That is why I would like to suggest—without trying to place the blame on previous governments—that we should try to distinguish between the activity of the current administration and the first three years of post-December governing." Vacaroiu then mentions a number of erroneous decisions taken by the previous governments in agriculture, industry, and finance, the negative consequences of which are still influencing the economic situation of the country and made Romania lose its credibility in the eyes of most international bodies. As opposed to this, Vacaroiu says, "the current government managed to achieve something fundamental: Halt further decline and even establish a basis for slight growth beginning with the end of this year. In 1993 we had to pay, for instance, over $340 million in interest for loans contracted in 1991 and 1992. Under such circumstances we take the liberty of asking the parliamentarians who signed the censure motion, who themselves held important offices in the previous executive or in parliament, the following question: Do they decline all the responsibility they might have had in Romania's economy plunging toward its current grave situation? Might we not talk of the responsibility, gentlemen, you have for the

people of the country? Would it not be better to defuse the political atmosphere and achieve, in the shortest time, the goals related to our country's transition toward a market economy, an option decided by national consensus as early as 1990?"

Although after this introduction Vacaroiu promises to discuss each point contained by the text of the censure motion, subsequently he does not build his argumentation on facts, instead of which he is highly repetitious in praising the achievements of his government and blaming the previous regimes for the country's current difficult situation.

In connection with the first point, which Vacaroiu fully quotes—"The promised reform has not yet started. There is no political will for economic recovery. The results of the present government are: anarchy, unprecedented corruption, and uncertainty of what tomorrow might bring"—he says that he was not surprised by the violence of the words in which that point was formulated, but rather by the "lack of logic in what it claims," namely that "if the reform process has not started yet, it means that our economy is still functioning the way it did before November 1992, and thus whatever is objected in it has nothing in common with the current government."

Vacaroiu then mentions a number of unpopular measures taken by his government, such as the elimination of all subsidies for consumer goods and the introduction of the value-added tax, after which he admits that those measures have caused soaring prices, but emphasizes the fact that this consequence would have been much more bearable for the population had they been taken at the proper time, namely previous to his governing period.

Related to privatization, Vacaroiu says that a large number of state-owned small and medium-size companies were turned into private companies and currently "about 30 percent of the gross national product is achieved by the private sector." After mentioning a few causes that obstruct the rapid privatization of Romania's economy, Vacaroiu says that his government intends to work out a package of measures to speed up the privatization process. As an example, Vacaroiu mentions the fact that "the quick transformation of the current property vouchers into shares and their focus on the best performing 2,000-2,500 companies of the country, that is, a similar method to that applied in Czechia, would contribute to a very rapid privatization over the next six months."

Regarding solving social assistance problems, Vacaroiu says that "we are still in a crisis situation and the only way out is the further increase of material production with the parallel furthering of the privatization process. However, I am asking you, how would our living standard be now if the trend established by Romanian and foreign economic experts had become reality, when they, at the beginning of 1993, predicted a 10 to 15 percent drop of our material production? I don't even need to comment on that. We admit criticism, but we wish that it could be based on actual knowledge of reality."

After saying that "there is a special situation in Romania, namely that for every second employee we have a pensioner," Vacaroiu enumerates the social protection measures taken by his government, intended to improve the situation of the low-income social categories.

Regarding the government's efforts to endorse the lawmaking activity promoting economic reform, Vacaroiu points out that his cabinet "has forwarded 160 draft bills to parliament; the large majority, about 80 percent, of those draft bills were intended to achieve the introduction of new institutions, means, and techniques typical of market economies. Unfortunately, a mere 61 of those initiatives were passed by parliament. Therefore we ask you to speed up the discussion of those draft bills that are exceptionally important to the progress of reform."

After mentioning the achievements of his government in agriculture and various other sectors, Vacaroiu remarks that "such positive factors in the evolution of our economy seem to have irritated certain parliamentarians so much that they have accused us of having falsified the statistical data, which actually was internationally confirmed. Nothing can be more offensive or more dishonest than that. We would like to remind them that the global character of the first point of the censure motion stems from a totalitarian view of the economy, namely that a single state administrative institution is the sole responsible authority for the whole progress of economy. Those who accuse us should try to better comprehend the role and the functions of governments in market economies, especially in a transition period such as the current one."

Regarding the accusation contained by the censure motion, according to which "inflation goes unchecked," owing to which "the population faces the same hardships—cold and hunger—as in 1989," Vacaroiu says that "beyond the assertion itself, let us note that the comparison is made with reference to 1989. Why not 1990, 1991 or 1992? This subterfuge is at least awkward if not embarrassing. We do not mean to say that over the past years our country did not have to face the extremely negative phenomenon of inflation, a phenomenon that could not be avoided by any other country either during their transition period toward market economy." Vacaroiu then admits that "This year's is assessed to reach about 250 percent, which is more than in any other previous year and more than 60-70 percent established by the government program," after which he explains that this was caused by the introduction of certain financial and taxation measures "that actually should have been taken during the first three years" after the 1989 change of regime. As to deficiencies in heating and food supplies, Vacaroiu blames local administration bodies for not having fulfilled their duty properly, after which he promises that the government intends to take special measures to improve that situation over next year.

As to the accusation that the government irresponsibly grants subsidies to companies operating in red, Vacaroiu replies that "according to the state budget that was passed by parliament, such subsidies are granted exclusively to the mining sector, the Bucharest subway, public transportation, and to cover price differences in the energy supplied for the population living in localities where energy is produced at higher prices than the price demanded by Romanian National Electricity Network Corporation." Vacaroiu then promises that the government will continue to effect subsidy cuts, but there are certain branches, such as coal mining, where under the current situation such cuts will not be possible in the near future, as "that would mean the elimination of 230,000 jobs, that is, it would cause extreme social problems and would force Romania to import about 45 million tonnes of coal each year—and I do not even mention the necessary technical equipment that would be needed for that—and the spending of about $1 billion. Do the signatories of the censure motion really have any idea how the closing down of the mining pits could be technically achieved?"

After rejecting accusations regarding the convertibility of the national currency and the central budgetary policy that blocks administrative decentralization, and the slow implementation of the Land Law—whereby Vacaroiu blames various objective circumstances, the inadequate work of the local bodies and the mistakes made by the previous governments—the speaker reiterates the idea that the authority of the government is limited.

Vacaroiu then mentions a number of measures taken to de- monopolize economy and stimulate economic competition. Vacaroiu outlines the government's activity to fight corruption, a phenomenon that "was inherited from the governments that ruled over the first three years" after the 1989 events.

Unemployment "did not begin after October 1992," when the current government began its activity, Vacaroiu says, after which he mentions the efforts made by the executive to curb unemployment.

By pointing out that the progress made by Romania is acknowledged abroad, as in 1993 Romania has granted the most-favored-nation status by the U.S., closer ties were established with the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and that "Romania has associated itself with practically every European institution," Vacaroiu rejects the accusation according to which "the crisis into which the current government has thrown the country is hampering the process of European integration."

Vacaroiu concludes his 78-minute speech by saying that the team he is heading intends to perform its duties in "a professional and honest way," and expresses his hope that their activity will be appreciated more in the future than it is today.

Vacaroiu Briefs PHARE Delegates on Economy

AU1712134493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1035 GMT 17 De 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/12/1993—Progress scored by Romania in 1993 has determined an adjustment of the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] assistance to the new needs, to the new economic framework, as well as a more important participation of Romania to European Union programmes for development, was the opinion of Karen Fogg, head of a European Community delegation in Bucharest, during an interview, Thursday evening, between Premier Nicolae Vacaroiu and members of a mission to identify PHARE assistance for 1994-1996.

During the interview, Premier Vacaroiu made a brief presentation of the economic situation in Romania, insisting on prospects regarding the application of the privatisation and economic restructuring programme launched by the government, the completion of a new system of social assistance, of financial and institutional reform.

Vacaroiu Promises Further Support to Moldova

AU1812212493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu received a government delegation of the Republic of Moldova led by Economic Relations Minister Andrei Cheptine.

The head of the Moldovan delegation briefed the Romanian side on the meetings that he held at the Ministries of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, and Health regarding the developmental stage of bilateral economic relations.

Mr. Cheptine thanked the Romanian Government for the support granted by certain international financial authorities in order to increase credit amounts to assist the reform program in Moldova.

During the talks, the sides approached in detail the issue on the way in which the assistance program granted by Romania's government to Moldova is being implemented. The sides decided that the amount of Romanian products requested by Moldova should be expanded in accordance with the nation's needs. Priority is presently given to health care—that is, to increase the amount of medicine for human use, especially antibiotics, as well as medicines for veterinary use.

In his report, the government spokesman also mentioned that the Romanian prime minister had reiterated the willingness of our government to appropriately implement the entire program of assistance granted to Moldova. He also announced that two draft laws concerning the increase of the amount of products offered by our

country as credit to Moldova have already been submitted to the parliament for endorsement. The Romanian Government will promptly respond to any request, according to the potential of our national economy.

PUNR, PDAR Establish Unity Block Alliance

AU1912180593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] The ceremony devoted to the establishment of the National Unity Block [BUN] took place an hour ago in Sarmisegetuza. BUN is the result of an alliance of the National Romanian Unity Party [PUNR] and the Democratic Agrarian Party of Romania [PDAR].

PUNR Vice President Cornel Brahas read the text of the protocol. The document reveals the fact that, during their talks, the representatives of the two political formations discovered that they had common ideas and principles, as well as similar doctrines and programs. Therefore, based on the need to have a solid center-oriented political alliance, they decided to establish the National Unity Block.

The protocol also defines the goals of the alliance, its position in provinces, provisions regarding the alliance's presence in local and legislative elections, and the position of the members of the alliance at the parliamentary and executive levels, as well as contacts at the national and international levels.

A standing commission of BUN, which will function as a joint working body, will also be established. The commission will include 10 members, five from each party. The commission will have a president, two vice presidents, two secretaries, and five members. The protocol was signed by PUNR President Gheorghe Funar and PDAR President Victor Surdu. After signing the document, the two party presidents addressed the audience.

Mr. Gheorghe Funar said that he considers the establishment of this alliance as the beginning of a struggle against those who, quote, declared war against the Romanian people, unquote. He made an appeal for unity, and as a sign of this unity, he saluted the presence of Mircea Druc, president of the National Reintegration Party, at the ceremony.

PUNR leader Funar reiterated the proposal voiced by a representative of his party in parliament during the debates on the censure motion regarding the resignation of the current government.

PDAR President Victor Surdu noted the importance of reasserting national unity feelings in Sarmisegetuza, which he called the shrine of the Romanian nation, and announced the intention of BUN to have a monument and a cathedral of the nation built there.

Our correspondents report that today's program also included a religious ceremony that blessed the alliance.

Iliescu, Czech Minister Discuss European Security

AU1712142993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0952 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/12/1993—Romania's President Ion Iliescu received on Thursday evening [16 December] at the Cotroceni Palace a military delegation headed by Antonin Baudys, minister of defense of the Czech Republic.

Also attending was Romania's Minister of Defense Lieutenant-General Niculae Spiroiu.

After the interview, the guest stated that the aim of his visit was to establish a first contact between the Czech Republic and Romania at ministerial level. "First of all we wanted to make an exchange of opinions and experience related to changes in the two armies, a process taking place both in the Czech Republic and in Romania, and to discuss the situation in the field of European security, a totally new situation that emerged here".

Antonin Baudys was also appreciative of the success of his visit that during interviews with the Romanian Ministry of Defense as well as with other high officials, and especially during his talks with President Ion Iliescu, he noticed an identity of opinions in the field. "We consider that a secure Europe might exist only within a collective security system in Europe, a system based on NATO and Western European Union structures from a military point of view, with negotiation processes within the conference on European security," Antonin Baudys said.

The Czech minister of defense also stated that, taking into consideration developments in Russia and the results in election, it was necessary for NATO and the Western European Union "to lend us not only one helping hand but both," pointing on the fact that only a democratic evolution in Russia would practically mean "the best assurance for European security under the current circumstances".

During the same day, the Czech minister of defense had an interview with Minister of State Mircea Cosea, approaching the issue of conversion of the defense industry. Mr. Baudys made an extensive presentation of the issues related to the conversion of the Czech defense industry, regarding the issue as difficult. He added that funds were highly important for they were already exceeding the Czech Army's resources, which called for large-scale privatisation and attraction of foreign capital to capitalize the production space and the highly-qualified staff.

Czech Minister Ends Visit

AU1812212393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1618 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/12/1993—Dr. Engineer Antonin Baudys, minister of defense of the Czech Republic, arrived in Bucharest on December 16, at the head of a military delegation. The guest was received by

Romania's president and had interviews at the government, the Ministry of National Defense and the Foreign Ministry. Saturday, December 18, at the close of the visit, Baudys told a press conference that he could note during talks with his Romanian counterpart Lieutenant-General Niculae Spiroiu that the transition of the two armies had many points in common.

The two dignitaries tackled aspects necessary for maintaining security and stability in this geographic area and in Europe, and the possibility for Central and East-European countries to get integrated into Euro-Atlantic defense structures, taking into account the role the Russian Federation and Ukraine can play in building these structures. In 1994 the Romanian and Czech ministers will sign, with the approval of the governments of the two countries, an agreement of military cooperation.

Tudor: Opposition Instigating Student Unrest

AU1712193293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1727 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/12/1993—The president of the Greater Romania Party (PRM) Corneliu Vadim Tudor said at a press conference on Friday that the students' actions had a "political underground" and were "part of the scenario conceived by the opposition in order to take over power by force." The PRM leader said also that the actions of the students and trade unions were concerted with the no-confidence motion and with the anniversary of the December 1989 events.

Senator Corneliu Vadim Tudor said the students' claims were to a large extent grounded but they would be solved only in a climate of cooperation with the decision-making bodies and within the legal framework.

The no-confidence motion currently debated in the Parliament would not be voted for, Senator Tudor said, because "the opposition cannot ever rule in Romania."

The demonstrations in front of the Russian Federation's Embassy in Bucharest were considered by the PRM leader as exaggerated. They could lead to a crisis in Romania's relations with Russia, "a crisis we do not need," senator C.V. Tudor said.

King Mihai Addresses Nation on Anniversary

AU1612192993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1536 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/12/1993—Romania's former sovereign King Mihai assesses in a message to the Romanians in marking four years since the sparking of the events in Timisoara on 16 December 1989 that "the sacrifice of the youth that went out to conquer a freedom that had been denied to them for half a century will remain a page of glory in the nation's book."

"I wholeheartedly hope that at least the sacrifice of our nation's most noble ones will awaken consciences and will toll the bell for the culprits' dusk and the heroes' dawn," the message reads.

UN Spokesman: All Sides Agree to Truce

AU1712141293 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 17 (AFP)—Bosnia-Herzegovina's three warring parties have agreed to a truce until the end of the year, a UN spokesman said here Friday, as European officials were to meet Bosnian Moslem leaders in Vienna to discuss their land-for-peace demands.

Sarajevo was "tense" and "unstable" Friday, the day after Serb gunners pounded the Bosnian capital with 750 shells UN Protection Force spokesman Major Idesbald Van Biesebroeck said. The Moslem-dominated Bosnian Army had responded with around 100 shells, he said. Serbs forces charged that Bosnian forces had advanced by a kilometre in the Rajlovac district of northwest Sarajevo, a claim UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] said it could not verify.

Van Biesebroeck said that Bosnian Serb commander General Ratko Mladic had agreed Wednesday to a December 23-January 3 truce following talks with the UNPROFOR Bosnia commander General Francis Briquemont. "Mladic said that he would respect the truce as long as he was not attacked," Van Biesebroeck added.

General Rasim Delic, commander of the Moslem-dominated Bosnian Army and General Ante Rosso, the Bosnian Croat commander, agreed to the truce Thursday following a meeting with Briquemont at Sarajevo airport, said Van Biesebroeck.

Radio Sarajevo announced the Bosnian-Croat accord late Thursday.

In Vienna, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic were to hold talks with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, whose country currently holds the European Community's rotating presidency. The talks aim to seek the return of "two to four percent of territory lost by the legitimate government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and guarantee this country a clear passage to the sea," said Alois Mock, the host country's foreign minister.

Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said he would not be attending the Vienna meeting on which he said "everything depends." The Croats were also not expected in the Austrian capital. The meeting aimed to prepare the December 23 resumption of peace talks between the warring parties in Geneva, a summit which Croatia, Serbia and its Montenegrin ally are also due to attend.

"It is not a question of putting pressure on the Moslems but of better understanding their position," said Claes. EC mediator Lord Owen, his UN counterpart Thorvald Stoltenberg and European commissioner Hans van den Broek, were also to attend the talks. Bosnia is demanding three to four percent more territory than provided for under the Owen-Stoltenberg plan dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina into three ethnically-based mini-states. Under the peace plan the Moslem-dominated Bosnian Government would control 30 percent of the country, the Serbs 52 percent and the Croats 18 percent. The Bosnian Government is pressing for further concessions from the Serbs—who currently control around 70 percent of the country—particularly formerly Moslem-dominated areas in eastern Bosnia.

In Sarajevo, the Sarajevo sector commander General Andre Soubirou categorically denied Serb claims that UN troops had withdrawn from sites on Mount Igman where they are monitoring demilitarized zones. Van Biesebroeck also denied reports of Bosnian Army attacks on the strategic heights overlooking western Sarajevo. In northern Bosnia, some 350 shells hit the Doboj area where UNPROFOR said government troops had halted a Serb advance, while clashes between the Bosnian Army and Croat forces intensified around Gornji Vakuf, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Sarajevo.

Serb troops also stepped up their shelling of government forces in the breakaway northwestern Bihac region, UNPROFOR said, as fighting slackened between secessionist forces of rebel leader Fikret Abdic and loyalist Moslem-troops.

Karadzic: Peace Depends on EU 'Advice' to Muslims

LD1712155393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1233 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Sarajevo, 17 Dec (TANJUG)—President of the republic of Srpsja Radovan Karadzic today told the Serbian news agency SRNA that the republic's delegation would not leave for Vienna today because it was not expected to take part in a meeting at which representatives of the EU [European Union] and CSCE were to talk to Muslim representatives.

Karadzic denied last night's speculations in Austria indicating that he, too, was going to come to Vienna for the talks. He pointed out that the meeting of the EU and CSCE with the Muslim side "shows the extent of responsibility for the crisis in ex-Bosnia-Herzegovina borne by European institutions". Karadzic maintains "everything depends on this meeting."

I believe we have never been so close to a solution. It is very likely that on 21 December, on the eve of the meeting in Brussels, a peace agreement will be signed since every condition for it has been fulfilled, Karadzic said and added that the only unknown element is "what advice Europe will give to the Muslims."

The president of the republic of Srpska said that this time "Europe has swallowed its own hook," thus making it clear that she manages the entire Yugoslav crisis.

Commenting on Mock's statement that the meeting in Vienna was convened in order to press the Serbian side into conceding an extra 2 to 4 percent of territory to the

Muslims, the president of the republic of Srpska said that "esteemed Mr. Koch does not know what he is talking about".

If this meeting were convened to put pressure on the Serbian side it would include the Serbian side too. Hence, this is a meeting at which the EC will advise the Muslims to accept or not accept the peace agreement, Karadzic said. Karadzic says that the proposed peace agreement is good for the Muslims. He also cautions that this time one will clearly see what Europe's advice is. By convening this meeting Europe has assumed the greatest possible responsibility, Karadzic says in his statement to the Serbian news agency.

Krajisnik: Moslems Not Ready for Peace

LD1912164293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1625 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Kragujevac, Dec 19 (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, parliamentary speaker of the Bosnian Serb republic, said on Sunday Bosnian Serbs hoped the peace talks on Bosnia resuming in Geneva on December 21 and in Brussels on December 22 would end with the signing of a peace agreement and demarcation of the Moslem, Serb and Croat communities.

Speaking for the local radio in Kragujevac, central Serbia, Krajisnik said Bosnian Serbs had information that the Moslems were again not ready to sign the peace plan. They are playing for time in the hope that their military goals will be achieved in the meantime, he added.

'We have agreed with the Croat side to make concessions to the Moslems,' said Krajisnik but added that Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats both feared that, despite concessions, the Moslems would again come out with new demands.

Moslem radical leader Alija Izetbegovic refused to sign the peace plan in Geneva on September 1 insisting on more territory.

The peace plan envisages Bosnia as a union of three ethnic mini-states—Moslem, Serb and Croat.

Koljevic: Ending Sanctions Key to Peace Accord

LD1812173293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1546 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 18 (TANJUG)—Vice-President of the Bosnian Serb official Nikola Koljevic said on Saturday that Bosnian Serbs would not sign an internationally drawn peace agreement in Geneva and Brussels if there were no guarantees for a suspension of sanctions against Yugoslavia. The Bosnia peace talks are resuming in Geneva on December 21, and in Brussels on the following day.

Koljevic told Radio Belgrade that Bosnian Serbs would insist on a simultaneous signing of the Bosnia peace plan and a document guaranteeing that anti-Yugoslav sanctions would be lifted. "We must not allow that the Serb people and Yugoslavia as a whole be brought to a situation in which, despite agreement, the sanctions would continue through some additional manipulation or, say, military incidents," said Koljevic. The Serb side is ready to sign the peace agreement for Bosnia, the Bosnian Serb official explained and added that, in his opinion, the European Union and the Bosnian Croat side wanted peace too. It is now up to the Moslems, and I hope that talks between international mediators and Bosnian Moslems in Vienna on Friday will bear fruit, said Koljevic.

Diplomats in Vienna say that the mediators have managed to persuade the Moslems that their unrealistic demands and vacillating policy must not threaten the talks in Geneva and Brussels.

Koljevic said the Moslems' stubborn refusal to sign the Bosnia peace plan and militant statements by their leaders ahead of the talks were actually the last attempt to exert pressure on Europe and the Serb and Croat sides so that the Moslems would get more territory.

Silajdzic Praises European Union Work

LD1812222693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Report on meeting between Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and domestic correspondents in Sarajevo on 18 December, by Nedzad Leko; passages between quotations marks recorded]

[Text] Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic gave his views today to the Sarajevo press corps following talks he held yesterday with European representatives Willy Claes, Hans Van Den Brook, Lord Owen, and David Stoltenberg.

[Leko] Silajdzic said that in Vienna an informative meeting had been held to inform European representatives about what had been going on at the previous bilateral meetings with the Serbian side. Silajdzic told the European representatives:

[Silajdzic] "During the talks we had to say in very clear terms that there had been no changes in our bilateral talks. The Serbian side does not want to consider territorial changes, either in east or western Bosnia. Hence, no progress in the talks. The Europeans accepted this as a piece of information without commenting much on it. As far as their side is concerned, they said that the talks were in progress, that they were looking into various options, but in any case were going to meet in Geneva and Brussels. In their view, some decisions should be taken at that stage. I have to say, though, that I see no solution at this present stage of ours. I see no progress, particularly with to respect to the territorial issues in relation to eastern Bosnia and Krajina [Bihac region].

"As we parted company we agreed that this had been an informative meeting, that is, a meeting at which they at last endorsed some of our standpoints and heard some of our views. There were questions raised on their part, particularly regarding Neum, i.e. our access to the sea. This is one of the most difficult questions to which there seems to be no solution for the time being although some alternative solutions are being offered. We have examined these solutions and concluded that it is very difficult to find a replacement for our access to the sea in Neum. This is, I said, Bosnian territory. This is Bosnia-Herzegovina's territory so one should proceed from this fact. This is the key fact from which we must proceed.

"It is my impression, therefore, that the European gentlemen are too optimistic. They are convening meetings, one after another, without achieving any major results. There is, nevertheless, another dominant feeling that now there is far more seriousness and a greater sense of urgency in their interest, that they want to find some way out. It seems to me, however, that it is only now that they have to tackle the true problems. The entire EC, particularly Van Den Brook and minister Willy Claes, appear to have assumed a greater role in seeking this, shall we call it, Bosnian solution."

[Leko] Asked about whether there were pressures on the Bosnian side to the effect that it should tone down its demands, Silajdzic said:

[Silajdzic] "There was only—as it was called—characterization or explication regarding the Neum question. Obviously, they want to solve this problem as this is one of the most difficult problems to solve. It is perfectly natural that they are trying to solve it in such a way that would set things in motion at a certain pace in the direction of a final solution. Even in this context it seems to me, at least at the moment—I'd rather be proved wrong—that any solution is still remote."

[Leko] Silajdzic denied reports by foreign news agencies that a possibility had also been discussed of having a peace agreement signed, including demilitarization of Sarajevo, while territorial demarcations would be discussed at a later stage. This proposal was not tabled by the European Union Silajdzic said, nor would it have been accepted in Vienna yesterday. It is a known fact that Lord Owen and Stoltenberg set off from Vienna for Belgrade only to return to Vienna afterwards.

[Silajdzic] "I met them after their return from Belgrade. They went there and returned in the space of one day. They say that work on satisfying our minimum set is accelerating. Still, there are no concrete answers to our concrete questions. This is why I must, regretfully, tell you that this is why I see no quick solution."

[Leko] Following his recent talks at Sarajevo airport with Momcilo Krajisnik Silajdzic said that he was not too much of a pessimist. Asked whether he still held the same view in the wake of Vienna, Silajdzic said:

[Silajdzic] "I can now add only one thing to this. By any account we have done what we could. We have done our best to achieve peace. We have set a minimum as we cannot go lower than that. We set this minimum in order to achieve peace, in order to reach a compromise. There is no final answer as yet. We have meetings, explications, exchange of information but no one, particularly Europe which is behind this initiative, has tabled any concrete solution. Hence we cannot formulate our attitude to a solution that does not exist. This is why these meetings are continuing in their present form.

"As it is known, in all complicated cases, especially in such a complicated case, there must be this kind of failed meetings in the diplomatic sphere. They are an integral part of the whole package. It seems to me, as I said, that the people from the EC are working persistently, seriously, more seriously than ever. As far as I am concerned I cannot see as yet that they have a solution that would amount to a compromise, a final peace."

UNPROFOR Spokesman Says Sarajevo 'Unstable'

AU2012143093 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, Dec 20 (AFP)—[passage omitted] Describing the capital as "unstable", United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Major Idesbald van Biesebroeck said armed exchanges continued midday Monday in central Sarajevo, a day after Bosnian Serb forces fired more than 140 shells there amid continuous sniper fire.

Sunday's exchanges, which were concentrated on the city centre and northern and western districts, left two people wounded, van Beisebroeck added.

Monday's sniper fire prompted city authorities to call a general alert, urging residents to restrict their movements. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile heavy fighting was also reported in Mostar, southern Bosnia, where Bosnian Croat forces fired more than 100 shells and mainly-Moslem Bosnian troops about 20, the UNPROFOR spokesman said.

Some 139 shells also fell in and around the northern town of Gradacac, the site of clashes between Serb and Bosnian government forces, van Biesebroeck said.

On the fringes of the northwestern Bihac pocket, exchanges of artillery, machine-gun and small arms fire were reported between the same factions.

Inside the pocket, forces loyal to rebel Bosnian commander Fikret Abdic continued to clash with government troops, the spokesman said.

Van Biesebroeck stressed that Bosnia's three warring parties had agreed to call a truce over the Christmas and New Year period, although Bosnian Serb commander

Ratko Mladic said his forces would only respect the agreeement "for as long as they are not attacked."

The truce is due to run from December 23 to January 3.

Muslim Attacks Around Sarajevo Reported

LD1712160893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1408 GMT 17 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Sarajevo, December 17 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslem forces on Friday morning [17 December] launched a new attack on the Serb-controlled Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza. The suburb came under mortar fire which sent the residents to shelters. There were no immediate news about possible casualties.

Moslem forces suffered great losses when the terrorist group of their third motorized brigade was partially neutralized on the battelfront around the Sarajevo suburb of Rajlovac on Thursday. As reported by Bosnian Serb army sources, troops of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) assisted in the recovery of the bodies of the killed Moslem fighters.

On the Ilijas front, Moslem forces made frequent provocations and intensively re-grouped their units in area of Visoko in the central part of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian Serb army said it had observed three Moslem helicopters flying from the direction of Zenica in the central part of the republic.

In the northern part of the Kosevo valley, Moslem units opened sporadic fire from infantry weapons and snipers.

Moslems strongly attacked Bosnian Serb positions and settlements in the wider region of Doboj in northern Bosnia, the operative group 'Doboj' of the Bosnian Serb army said on Friday.

Moslems also launched intensive attacks in the areas of Teslic and Ozren and on Serb settlements on the right bank of the River Bosna.

The information service of the Bosnian Serb Army Herzegovina Corps said on Friday morning that joint forces of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia and the Bosnian Croat Army (HVO) had continued to open fire from anti-aircraft and artillery weapons in the area of Ljubinje, eastern Herzegovina, on Thursday night.

Moslem forces on Thursday also opened fire on Foca and Cajnic in eastern Herzegovina, the sources said, adding that Moslem attacks had also been reported in the area of Konjic in the northern part of the region.

Muslims Reportedly Shell Villages Near Goradze

LD1812143893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1420 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Bileca, December 18 (TANJUG)—Moslem forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on Saturday shelled Bosnian Serb positions and villages around Gorazde in the eastern [part] of the republic. The Serb side returned fire and stopped the Moslem onslaught, the Bosnian Serb Army said, adding that there were no casualties on the Serb side. Moslem forces also continued attacks on Serb villages and positions in the region of Konjic, Foca and Cajnice in southeastern Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Moslem forces loyal to radical leader Alija Izetbegovic also continue weeks-long attacks on Bosnian Serb units in Doboj in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. Such large offensive actions by the Moslems indicate that they still favor the military option and want to stoke the war in Bosnia- Herzegovina which has been underway for twenty months.

The latest massacre by Moslems took place in the Serb village of Slivnje in eastern Bosnia on Thursday. Moslem units razed the village and 18 villagers still have not been accounted for. It is feared that the Moslems have killed all the villagers. Moslems also butchered Serb civilians in the village of Potkozlovaca last Saturday, near the municipality of Han Pijesak in eastern Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb sources said that the Moslems were getting ready for a spring offensive and that the present attacks were part of the preparations. Serb villages and civilians, but also Bosnian Croat positions in central Bosnia-Herzegovina are presently under attack.

Moslems and Croats, who were allies against Bosnian Serbs at the beginning of the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, have been fighting each other since the beginning of this year. Each side accuses the other of genocide and ethnic cleansing operations.

Croatia Reportedly Planning Air Attack on Mostar

LD1912222193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] According to intelligence reports received by the command of the [Bosnia-Herzegovina Army] 4th Corps, the eastern part of Mostar will soon be attacked by the Croatian Air Force. This operation will be directly commanded over by Croatian General Janko Bobetko. MIG-29 aircraft will be used in the attack. The Croatian Army currently has nine MIG-29 aircraft. Helicopters armed with destructive weapons are also to be used in the attack.

The aerial attack has been planned in detail in the main headquarters of the Croatian Army and its goal is to annihilate eastern Mostar before an all-out attack is launched by the Croatian Army and the Croatian Defense Council [HVO].

According to a statement issued by the command of the Fourth Corps of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, the attack is to take place after an exchange of POW's and after all remaining Croats in the free part of Mostar have crossed over to the western part of the city.

'Thunderous Artillery Fire' Reported in Olovo

AU2012094593

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0900 GMT on 20 December carries in its regular 12-minute newscast three reports on the fighting in the republic.

Reporting from Olovo, Velid Djindo says that "this beautiful and sunny December morning began on this front with thunderous artillery fire on the southern Olovo gates. Howitzers, mortars, and tanks are again in action against the town center and the defense lines."

In his report from Zavidovici, Viktor Boban first rounds up the situation yesterday and then says that "throughout the night and this morning the enemy has been using small arms to fire on Dolovi and Dubravica. Three 120-mm mortars were fired at the town just after 0530."

Describing the situation in Sarajevo, the studio announcer cites the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army 1st Corps as saying that "just after midnight howitzers from Poljine shelled Velesici, while mortars were fired at Zuc. A howitzer from (?Petrinja) fired five shells at the city." The citizens of Sarajevo are again warned to "exercise maximum caution as all indications are that the enemy does not intend to halt the killing."

Muslims Find Ammunition on Croatian Aid Convoy

LD1912183693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] We are beginning our war chronicle with a report on convoys. One of them is traveling toward Maglaj, but the other one, called White Path, has been halted between Novi Travnik and Gornji Vakuf.

According to a statement by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Embassy in Croatia and information the embassy received from the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR], the Nova Bila-bound convoy, White Path, was halted after it was found to be transporting ammunition, detonators, snipers, and radio sets. One of the convoy's drivers said in the presence of UNPROFOR representatives that the convoy was loaded in Split and that he knew of its cargo.

The statement by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Embassy in Croatia says it has been doing everything in its power to enable the convoy to proceed to Nova Bila, despite the fact that it was found to be transporting ammunition.

Croats: Muslims Planted Weapons

LD1912225193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 2203 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] The humanitarian aid convoy bound for Nova Bila is still held up at a Muslim checkpoint in Pavlovica, according to a report issued this evening by the Zagreb office of the operation. Negotiations are continuing between the convoy representatives and the Bosnian army in the presence of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force].

The report adds that participants in the convoy are in a safe place with UNPROFOR protection.

The Zagreb office in charge of organizing the convoy for the Nova Bila area has issued a statement saying that the convoy has been halted despite firm guarantees by the Bosnian embassy in Zagreb that it would be let through.

It was also said in the statement that although the inspection of the convoy was completed it had not been given the go-ahead to continue its journey until the Maglaj-bound convoy had reached the area under Muslim control near Bujojno. Only after this did the Muslim inspection team's report there find, according to their claims, 5,000 explosive detonators, 10,000 fuses, a box of sniperscopes, and nine two-way radios.

The statement further reads that all of this had been planted by Muslims in a plot to scuttle the aid column.

'Unconfirmed' Report of Mate Boban Dismissal

LD1712195993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Report by Nada Al-Isa from Zagreb for Bosnia-Herzegovina radio and television]

[Text] Mate Boban will be dismissed this weekend. Although unconfirmed, this is the news of the day in all political circles in Zagreb, and it sounds good. However, this is not all. Certain people in Zagreb are claiming with complete confidence that Mate Boban was dismissed last night. True, it is impossible to say if this is past or future. However, persistently questioned by foreign journalists in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace [Tudjman's residence] and the Croatian Assembly, well-informed Croatian politicians, wishing to remain anonymous, gave this reply: Something big will happen over the weekend. The only conclusion one can draw is that Boban was dismissed last night but the news will be announced this weekend.

Croats: Release of Last Muslim POW's Under Way

LD1712204493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Report from Mostar by correspondent Zdenko Vranjes]

[Excerpts] Officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are carrying out a survey among the last POWs at the Rodoc detention center to establish who wants to go where. If this procedure is completed on time all detention centers will have been vacated by this evening. The Gabela detention center has already been vacated. A total of 186 POWs—released from the Heliodrome camp in Rodoc this morning—wanted to go Muslim-held territory, while about 90 wanted to go to third countries. The UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] will transport the first group of released PoWs to the Muslim-held part of Mostar, while those wishing to go to third countries will be transferred to a transit center under ICRC control until their visas are ready. [passage omitted]

Here is what Mate Boban told Croatian Radio in Mostar today on the subject of PoWs and the closure of detention centers:

[Begin Boban recording] I am personally convinced that the world—despite the inflexibility of the other sides, especially the Muslim one, not to release a single Croat—will exert pressure. At the same time we will show [everyone] who is who in Herceg-Bosna, from the moral point of view and every other point of view. I am also convinced that the other sides, especially the Muslim one, will react positively to this decision. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Presidency Member Views Tour of Arab States

LD1812223793 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] At the end of his tour of Arab states, Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency member Ejup Ganic had a meeting with the secretary general of the Arab league. On this occasion it was agreed that more attention would be devoted to diplomatic activities to find a just solution for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to Ganic, it was agreed that more humanitarian aid would be delivered to Bosnia-Herzegovina [from Arabic countries]. Talks on settling the debts to Bosnia-Herzegovina companies also had encouraging results. Room was found for new business ventures, i.e, Bosnia-Herzegovina will inherit all market activities previously carried out by the former Yugoslavia. On the other hand, debts to former Yugoslav republics which committed an aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina will be frozen in this region. According to Ganic, the general conclusion after his talks with the presidents of Arab states is that a failure to find a just solution for the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina could destabilize Arab states, where people are calling on their governments to help Bosnia-Herzegovina. This could create a great deal of discontent in this part of the world where important political and economic interests of European states are at stake, Ganic pointed out after returning to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Army Threatens To Blow Up Dam in Teocak

AU2012114993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 20 Dec 93

[The Teocak Press Center report]

[Text] Since early this morning the [Serbian] aggressor has been carrying out a fierce tank and infantry attack on the free Teocak territory. The aggressor's artillery barrage indicates that today could be a very hard day for the people and fighters of this region.

A considerable number of tanks and [Ratko] Mladic's cutthroats have ben moving in on Veliki Greben in an all-or-nothing operation. The fighters of the 1st Glorious Brigade Hajrudin Mekic are ready to confront the much superior aggressor.

We are warning the Serbian population in the Ugljevik commune to evacuate their homes since—as we have been told by the command of the 1st Glorious Brigade Hajrudin Mekic—the dam will be blown up today at 1800.

Belgian UN Blue Beret Shot Dead Outside Sarajevo

LD2012105293 Brussels Radio Vlaanderen International in English 1000 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Excerpts] In Bosnia a Belgian United Nations blue beret has been shot dead. The victim was a chief corporal from the 39th Battalion. He was in charge of leading a convoy between Kiseljak and (?Bisokova), north west of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo. He was hit by a sharp shooter in the arm and chest. The man was 31 years old and worked at the headquarters of the Belgian blue berets in Bosnia under the leadership of General Briquemont. He was the third Belgian soldier to lose his life in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

In total there are almost 300 Belgian blue berets active. There are also some 700 Belgian soldiers stationed in the neighboring republic Croatia.

Army, Serbs Sign Christmas Cease-Fire Agreement

LD1712194193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Talks were held today at the Turanj monitoring station near Karlovac between representatives of the Croatian Army and the Serbian side in the presence of General Cot and high-ranking UN Protection Forces officers, the Ministry for Defense of the Republic of Croatia reports in a statement. The result of these talks is an agrement on a Christmas cease-fire. It takes effect on 17 December throughout the Republic of Croatia and covers Christmas, New Year and the Orthodox Christmas period. General Stipetic signed the agreement on behalf of the Croatian Army. The talks were also attended by naval Captain Davor Domazet and Brigadier Pavao Miljevac. Kosta Novakovic signed the agreement on behalf of the Serbian side.

The agreement, which corresponds with the peace initiative launched by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, reads as follows:

At this time of the year when both Catholic and Orthodox Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, the signatories to this agreement are duty-bound to cease all armed hostilites as of 23 December 1993 until midnight 15 January 1994 along all the lines of demarcation between the two sides as found on 17 December 1993.

The sides are duty-bound to implement measures that will take effect immediately after the signing of this agreement.

The moment the cease-fire takes effect the sides are duty-bound to start talks on a total and permanent cease-fire, including disengagement of forces on both sides. The talks on this agreement on a total cease-fire will be conducted on the basis of a draft plan that has already been discussed.

Krajina Result Annulled; Ballots Found in Bin

AU1712211093 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Report by Krste Bijelic from Knin]

[Text] Following Sunday's elections, the republic of Serbian Krajina has no new president. The election of at least 20 deputies, who regarded themselves as being elected to parliament, will have to be reviewed. This is the essence of what was said this evening at the news conference of the Krajina electoral commission.

It was said at the conference that, because of the palpable and flagrant violations of the elections procedure, the election results have been annulled in the constituencies of Knin and Benkovac, and that—because of the overstepping of the legal and extended deadlines for the submission of the election returns—the election results have also been annulled in Krnjak, Podravska Slatina, Grubisno Polje, and Daruvar.

However, as we have found out, even if the election results had not been annulled in the said constituencies, presidential candidate Milan Babic would not have had the necessary majority of the votes in the elections. Even if the voting had been regular at all the polling stations, he would still be some 1,200 votes short.

The Krajina electoral commission will present to the public all the evidence of these flagrant election violations. As for us, we will give one of the ugliest examples:

Used ballot papers were found in a trash can in Knin with the names of the presidential candidates, of which there were 12 votes for Rade Leskovac, eight for Milan Martic, one for Goran Hadzic, one for Ranko Bakic, and two votes for Jovan Opacic. That is why the congratulations sent to Milan Babic from various quarters have proven premature. Among those who congratulated him in this premature way—let us remind you—were Vojislav Seselj, Goran Hadzic, Dragoljub Micunovic, Vuk Draskovic, and DUGA reporter Dada Vujadinovic.

Yours truly has recently been warning that nothing can be said definitely before the final results were in, and before the official report from the Krajina commission. That is why—just as in Zagreb and Ljubljana at the time—I have provoked the anger of the media servants in Knin Radio, and Knin Television, who were literally racing each other to announce unconfirmed and unofficial results of the election victory of Milan Babic and the Serbian Democratic Party of Krajina.

This attempt to deceive the public with false data and percentages, ignoring the institutions of the state, and similar tricks have raised tensions in Krajina to dangerous heights. The Krajina people are, however, a wise and politically mature people, and they will know the distinctions between those fighting for naked power and those fighting for the future of Krajina.

Tudjman Supports Abdic Participation in Talks

LD1912172593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, has received delegations of the Croatian Muslim Democratic Party and the Muslim Democratic Party. The following took part in the talks: Mirsad Baksic and Ermin Pohara, the presidents of the two parties; Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia and [name indistinct], the president of the province's assembly; [word indstinct] Robovic, a minister in the Herceg-Bosna government; and [name indistinct], a member of the Muslim Democratic Party presidency, the president's office said in a statement.

The delegation expressed their condolences to President Tudjman, following the criminal act against the Croats in Algeria, and warned that this was an obvious example

of a Muslim fundamentalist policy, which had also caused confrontations between the Croats and Muslims and among Muslims themselves in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Consequently, they stressed the need to normalize Croat-Muslim relations, following the example of the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia and, to that end, asked for support for their initiative for Fikret Abdic's participation on an equal footing [with Alija Izetbegovic] in the Geneva negotiations.

Refuting the accusations which have been voiced in public about alleged illegal trade and sanctions-busting in the autonomous province of western Bosnia, Fikret Abdic said that this is in fact an attempt to discredit him, launched from the ranks of Izetbegovic's fundamentalist administration.

Having emphasized the bitterness felt among the public in Croatia, caused by the crimes committed by the Muslim extremists against the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and then in Algeria, while Croatia is at the same time continuing to provide care for large numbers of Muslim refugees, President Tudjman stressed that, he will—as he has been doing all along—do his best to bring an end to the war as soon as possible and to establish relations of friendship and cooperation between the Croat and Muslim people. In that respect he recalled numerous agreements reached, particularly those signed in Geneva on 14 September, which have unfortunately been simply ignored by the Sarajevo government.

Citing the example of the autonomous province of western Bosnia as an area where the friendly relations between the Croats and Muslims have not deteriorated at all, Franjo Tudjman promised to lend his support to Fikret Abdic's participation in the Geneva talks, the statement says in its conclusion.

UNPROFOR: Serbian Conditions 'Unacceptable'

AU1712220493 Paris AFP in English 2123 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Zagreb, Dec 17 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb attempts to impose conditions on UN troops are "totally unacceptable" and should be referred to the Security Council, the commander of the United Nations Protection Force said Friday [17 December]. UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] commander General Jean Cot said that Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic had opposed the Nordic batallion in the region of Tuzla being armed with tanks and the replacement of the Canadian contingent in Srebrenica with a British armoured unit.

"General Mladic attempted to impose conditions on the replacement of UNPROFOR troops serving in Bosnia-Hercegovina and on the level of armaments to be used by those troops," the French general told a news conference here.

"Such attempts to restrict UNPROFOR's mandate ability to carry out its mandate are totally unacceptable," he said. During a meeting Wednesday with General Francis Briquemont, Mladic had also demanded a limit on the calibre of weapons used by UN troops, Cot said. "There is no question of the Serb side being able to dictate conditions, Cot said, adding that he had asked UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali to submit the issue to the Security Council. "This stance has delayed replacement of the (Canadian) Canbat-2 personnel in Srebrenica and is preventing the effective deployment of Nordbat-2," the Nordic batallion, he said.

Cot is to visit Belgrade Tuesday to discuss the problems with Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic and the chief of staff of the Yugoslav army, General Momcilo Perisic.

Serbia

Socialist Party Wins 'Large Majority' of Votes

LD2012133393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1231 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—Ivica Dacic, spokesman of the Socialist Party of Serbia, announced today that the Socialists had won a convincingly large majority of votes and that they expected to have between 124 and 128 seats in the new republican parliament.

Dacic disclosed these details on the basis of the 3,828,833 votes counted so far, which represents 54.6 percent of the overall electorate in the republic.

According to Dacic, the Socialist Party of Serbia has won 37.2 percent of the votes; Depos [Democratic Movement of Serbia]—16 percent; the Serbian Radical Party—13.1 percent; the Democratic Party—11.3 percent; and the Democratic Party of Serbia—4 percent.

Depos Forecasts Socialist Victory

LD2012105493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0948 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—According to data provided so far by all electoral districts and collected and processed by the Depos [Democratic Movement of Serbia], with 68 percent of the votes counted, the Socialist Party of Serbia will win the largest number of seats—107—in the parliamentary elections held in Serbia yesterday, the Depos election headquarters announced this morning.

Depos will be second with 51 deputies; the Serb Radical Party will have 40, the Democratic Party—31, the Democratic Party of Serbia—eight; the Democratic Community of Vojvodina Hungarians—seven; and the Peasant Party of Serbia—two. The remaining four seats will be taken by other parties.

Socialists Leading in Belgrade

LD2012020293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2347 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Dec (TANJUG)—Ivica Dacic, spokesman of the Socialist Party of Serbia, has stated at a news conference that out of 15 percent of the ballot papers that were counted by 2300 GMT, his party has won 44,771 votes in the electoral district of Belgrade. Depos has won 33,700 votes, the Democratic Party 21,626, the Serbian Radical Party 18,366, while the Democratic Party of Serbia has won 11,774 votes.

Dacic said that in Belgrade the Socialist Party of Serbia has won a far greater number of votes than last year and quoted as an example the Belgrade municipality of Palilula where last year the Socialist Party of Serbia won 22 percent of the vote, while this year, according to the ballot papers counted so far, it has won 35 percent of the vote.

Gains 65 Percent in Pristina

LD2012093693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0837 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Pristina, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—According to the electoral headquarters of the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS], the socialists have considerably exceeded their election results of last year in electoral district seven, Pristina. Of the total number of voters who turned out, 65 percent voted for SPS candidates. This assessment indicates that in the Pristina electoral district the socialists have secured at least 20 out of 24 seats. It is estimated that the remaining four seats will be shared between Serbia's radicals and Depos and perhaps some other party. The socialists have also scored the best election results in Pec, Kosovo Polje, Urosevac, Pristina, and Lipljan, according to the SPS electoral headquarters for Kosovo and Metohija.

Milosevic Casts Vote

LD1912135293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1208 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 19 December (TANJUG)—I am expecting successful elections and a stable government, Slobodan Milosevic, the president of the Republic of Serbia, said today after he cast his vote in reply to a question about his expectations and today's vote. Slobodan Milosevic, his wife Mirjana Markovic, and their son Marko voted in the "4 July" local community center in Dedinje. He gave a brief statement to a large group of reporters who had been waiting for him at the polling station since 0900.

"These elections are of great significance for our country as they should secure a stable parliament and a stable functioning of government. The serious difficulties we have been encountering are something that all our citizens consider as a fact of their own lives," he said.

"Only a stable assembly, unhindered by obstructions, passions and arguments fought at the expense of Serbia's citizens, and a stable government as an instrument of such an assembly can tackle these difficulties. I believe that these elections will be successful in this respect Milosevic", he said.

Asked about his opinion about the next round of negotiations in Geneva on 21 December, Slobodan Milosevic said: "I believe that we are approaching the end of negotiations. We shall see! You know, this is a trilateral problem. As far as the Serbian side is concerned, there are no problems," he added. Asked whether the Muslims would again pull out of an agreement, Slobodan Milosevic said: "They do not have to pull out since we have always advocated a formula that protects the interests of all three peoples." On being insistently asked why he believed that a solution was near, he replied: "I believe that we are going to have a fair solution and an equal approach to the three sides."

Expects 'Stable' Government

AU1912212293 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Video report by Zeljko Avramovic—recorded]

[Text] [Avramovic] A few minutes after noon, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic also realized his civic right to vote together with wife Mirjana Markovic and son Marko at polling station No. 29 in the 4th of July local community, surrounded by more than 50 correspondents, cameramen, and photographers.

After casting his vote, Serbian President Milosevic agreed at the request of your correspondent to give a brief statement:

[Avramovic] Mr. President [words indistinct] usually do not make statements to the camera. We know that you are observing the electoral blackout; however, this will be broadcast after 2000. Besides everything that you have said so far, what do you expect from these elections, and what are your other expectations?

[Milosevic] These elections are extremely significant for our country. They should secure a stable assembly and a stable functioning of the government. The great difficulties that we encounter, all our citizens experience in their own lives. For this reason precisely—namely, such difficulties can only be tackled by a stable assembly, unhindered by obstruction and without party quarrels at the expense of the interests of the Serbian citizens, and a stable government as an (?expression) of this assembly. I believe that in this sense, these elections will prove to be successful.

[Avramovic] Thank you!

Opposition Reports 'Irregularities'

AU2012073893 Paris AFP in English 0137 GMT 20 Dec 93

[By Nicolas Miletitch]

[Excerpts] Belgrade, Dec 20 (AFP)—President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist Party has taken a clear lead in first results from Serbia's legislative elections on Sunday [19 December], and a spokesman predicted it might get the absolute majority it wants. According to partial results given by opposition parties, the formerly communist Socialist Party is well ahead in some 20 towns, polling at least a third of the vote, followed by the Democratic Movement of four opposition groups (Depos).

The ultra-nationalist Serbian Radical Party (SRP), which had 73 seats in the old parliament and won 22 percent of the vote last year, appeared to have lost support.

Socialist Party spokesman Ivica Dacic told a news conference: "The Socialist Party is ahead by a wide margin, including in Belgrade, and is winning more votes than in last year's general election. An optimistic Dacic hinted that the Socialist Party "could get an absolute majority in the new parliament." [passage omitted]

But Depos leader Vladimir Gajic said the Socialists would "get no more than 90 seats."

The polls were marked by low turnout and a boycott by ethnic minorities.

Full turnout figures will not be available until Monday but by 1500 GMT on Sunday only about 40 percent of the seven million-strong electorate had voted, according to the national electoral commission. [passage omitted]

Just before polling stations closed on Sunday night, several opposition movements claimed there had been numerous irregularities. According to a representative of the Civic Alliance, a Depos ally, many voters had gone to vote only to find they were not on the electoral roll. Depos and the Democratic Party of Serbia also charged that in a number of polling stations, their representatives had been prevented from taking their places to monitor the casting of ballots. However a spokesman's for Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement said there had been "no major irregularities".

The ballot was largely ignored in the mainly ethnic-Albanian province of Kosovo where Albanian community leaders called for a boycott. The Albanians were not the only ones to boycott the poll: Moslem voters and members of the small Turkish community also appeared to have heeded calls by the Moslem Democratic Action Party and the National Turkish Party of Prizren in eastern Kosovo to boycott the poll. [passage omitted]

First partial results based on a tally of one third of the votes, issued on Sunday night by Depos showed that in the eastern towns of Nis and Kursumlija, the Socialists had 33 and 49 percent respectively and in the northern town of Zrenjanin, the Socialists had 37.5 percent. The Serbian Radical Party's score was 15.5 percent in Nis, 17.0 percent in Kursumlija and 18.0 percent in Zrenjanin. Depos itself scored 17 percent in Nis, 11.8 percent in Kursumlija and 10.6 percent in Zrenjanin. The Radicals claimed to be leading in Novi Sad in the northern province of Vojvodina.

First official results are not expected before Wednesday.

Draskovic: SRS Coalition Possible

LD1912155593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1338 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Dec (TANJUG)—Depos [Democratic Movement of Serbia] candidate Vuk Draskovic said after casting his vote today that he expected the elections to bring changes. Depos and the other democratic forces in Serbia will definitely obtain the majority of seats in parliament, which means that the parliament will be largely democratic and a democratic government could easily be established. The Serbian nation is ready for changes, Draskovic said.

He also said that Depos will decide about a coalition after gaining victory. He added, however, that he will be prepared to enter into a coalition with all democratic forces. When asked whether he will [form a coalition] with the Serbian Radical Party, he replied that this party had for some time been behaving like an opposition party. A little more effort and it could become democratic and then all will be well, he added.

However, Draskovic said categorically that there could be no coalition with the Serbian Socialist Party [SPS].

When asked how—if the opposition gained the majority of seats in parliament—the following set-up will function: The president of the republic as SPS leader—leading people in parliament and the government as the former opposition, Draskovic said that the president will have to respect the parliament and the decisions of the majority.

When reminded that the president's duties are substantial, the Depos leader said: "He will not have them."

The parliament will belong to the people, it will be a parliament of the majority. We will listen to the people and a president who refused to listen to the people will not be able to be president, Draskovic said in a statement after casting his vote in the Polling Station 37 in Rakovica.

Seselj Unhappy Over Results

LD1912230893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2248 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 19 Dec (TANJUG)—Serbian Radical Party Chairman Vojislav Seselj said this evening that initial election results from Belgrade and several towns from central Serbia which have reached the Radicals' headquarters "are not good." In his election headquarters he stated that these results speak of "unexpected success of the Socialists," but warned that one must await the final results. He noted that the Radicals underestimated the influence of the state television. In Belgrade city municipalities the Radicals have won around 10 percent of the vote according to information that has reached their election headquarters so far. [passage omitted]

Radicals Lose 20-30 Percent

LD2012020993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0044 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—Serbian Radical Party Chairman Vojislav Seselj said in Belgrade that according to reports received by midnight his party had lost 20-30 percent of votes in comparison with last year's elections. Seselj said that the Socialist Party of Serbia had increased its percentage of votes in some towns particularly in southern Serbia but "one should wait for election results in all municipalities". [passage omitted]

Arkan Expects Over 10 Seats

AU1912215893 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Video report by Dragana Kuzmanovic Janjicic—recorded]

[Text] [Janjicic] Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan, president of the Party of Serbian Unity, arrived at his polling station in the No. 1 electoral unit in Dedinje at 0900 this morning. Along with his closest aides, and in the presence of numerous correspondents, he fulfilled his constitutional right and cast his vote and trust in those who can help Serbia.

Mr. Raznjatovic, the motto of your party is Serbian unity. Can these elections contribute toward Serbian unity?

[Raznjatovic] These are the elections of Serbian unity. I believe that the Serbian Parliament has been dissolved because there was no Serbian unity; there was no Serbian harmony in the Serbian Parliament. You saw for yourself how parliament looked.

We have the elections, and we hope that these elections will contribute toward Serbian unity and Serbian harmony.

[Janjicic] What are your expectations?

[Raznjatovic] We hope that we will win, not a majority in the parliament, but a certain number of seats. I do not want to make any forecasts, as this is not known. We expect more than 10 seats, but we may also surprise some people. Naturally, as we a party of surprises.

Hungarian Party Meets 'Expectations'

LD2012112793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0912 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Novi Sad, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—Andras Agoston, president of the Democratic Community of Vojvodina's Hungarians [DZVM], told TANJUG today that, according to the first unofficial reports, the [DZVM's] election result has met his expectations.

We are satisfied with the turnout of voters and the votes won by the DZVM, Agoston said. He predicts that the DZVM's vote will be smaller by 7-10 percent compared to last year's elections. He points out that this result is nevertheless a success in light of the fact that in the meantime, as he claims, 30,000-35,000 Vojvodina Hungarians have left their homeland.

Agoston expects that the DZVM will have at least five or perhaps as many as nine seats—the number of DZVM seats in the old Assembly—in the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Everything depends on the results achieved by other parties, Agoston said.

Milosevic's Wife Criticizes Nationalism

LD2012110293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0941 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—The escalation of nationalism in the area of the former Yugoslavia, initiated to a high degree from outside, could not bypass Kosovo where at present there are two nationalisms which often tend to assume their most extreme form, Mirjana Markovic [Milosevic's wife] says in an interview with the latest issue of 'BUJKU', the Albanian-language weekly.

"The Serbian nationalists would like to get rid of the Albanians of Kosovo by at least degrading them if not exactly by driving them out," she said. "The Albanian nationalists and chauvinists would like to incorporate Kosovo's territory into Albania or at least to set up their own Albanian republic."

In her words, these two extremes cannot be reconciled, making it impossible "for the Albanian and Serbian people to live together as Serbs and Albanians or as humans if their interests are articulated by representatives of these two extremes."

They can live together "if their interests are articulated by representatives of these two peoples who do not perceive the other people as enemies, that is, those who do not wish to wreak trouble on the other people," Mirjana Markovic stressed.

"The interests of the Albanian people in Kosovo and the Serbian state's interests do not necessarily have to be at odds; they can easily be even harmonious if they are conveyed by well-intentioned people from both sides. This goodwill means a lot."

"Those who articulate it should not be nationalists and chauvinists so they do not profit, in a status and material sense, from their quasi patriotism. They should respect the needs of others and their own word and sincerely wish the other people well. There are such people on both sides. It is not they, though, who represent these two sides. At least not yet."

Mirjana Markovic believes that the Serbians and Albanians "in Kosovo must live as equal peoples, as equal citizens and as equal individuals." "The present parallel existence that has taken place there can only be dismantled if they approach each other."

"They will meet each other only if they are not led by nationalists, that is nationalist extremists," Mirjana Markovic says in conclusion.

Macedonia

UNPROFOR Denies Moving Tanks Into Skopje

AU1712210393 Skopje MIC in English 17 Dec 93

[Unattributed report: "Denial Concerning UN Tanks in Skopje"]

[Text] The UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] Command in Skopje categorically denied the allegations in the Skopje VECER concerning the arrival of UN tanks in Skopje. The Command severely criticizes the writing of the Skopje daily and emphasizes that such "imaginary" reporting does not contribute to the good relations between UNPROFOR and the citizens of Macedonia. At the end of the letter, it is said that such writing unnecessarily created a climate of insecurity among the population.

Montenegro

Deputy Prime Minister Assassinated

LD2012104793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1008 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Podgorica, 20 Dec (TANJUG)—Montenegrin Deputy Prime Minister Mihailo Ljesar was killed this morning in his cabinet office in Podgorica. According to unofficial and unconfirmed reports, he was killed by Drago Krivokapic, finance director of the "Tara" transport company. The killer committed suicide after the crime in Deputy Prime Minister Ljesar's office. The Montenegrin Internal Affairs Ministry is expected to issue an official statement on this murder.